

analogies between the fluctuations of glaciers and of the levels of lakes are so complete that all doubt as to their connection seems to be excluded, and the more so that the parallelism between the movements of glaciers and lakes within historic times has been demonstrated by the investigations of Sieger and myself." Brückner believes in climatic periods which, as regards duration, are intermediate between his 35-years' period and the climatic variations of the diluvial age.

In connection with the problem which has engaged our attention in the preceding chapter, the words with which Brückner concludes his work are of great interest: "A change of climate, such as must have begun after the conclusion of the glacial period, has not hitherto been demonstrated with certainty, and there is still much discussion of the subject; the hydrographic phenomena, which so excellently reflect our short periodic fluctuations, seem to indicate no trace of any such alteration, which shows that this must have proceeded at an extremely slow rate."

In the winter of 1903-4 Ellsworth Huntington accomplished a journey in the easternmost part of Persia, near the Afghan frontier, from Askabad to Seistan and back. In his valuable narrative he proves, with exceptional perspicuity, that the country in question enjoyed in the last geological period an incomparably more abundant precipitation than at present.

Huntington¹ commences by referring to the dry climate of Persia and its scarcity of rivers, which have not had sufficient power of erosion to keep pace with the upheaval of mountain chains. Consequently enclosed basins have been formed where the drainage loses itself in salt lakes, and where the weathering products from the hills are deposited. These basins are everywhere a result of mountain formation, but their permanence is due to a dry climate. He also holds that the homogeneous terrace formations in Western Asia can only be explained by means of a theory of a sequence of changing climatic periods, corresponding to ice periods in northern lands. In Seistan

¹ *Explorations in Turkestan*, p. 219 et seq.