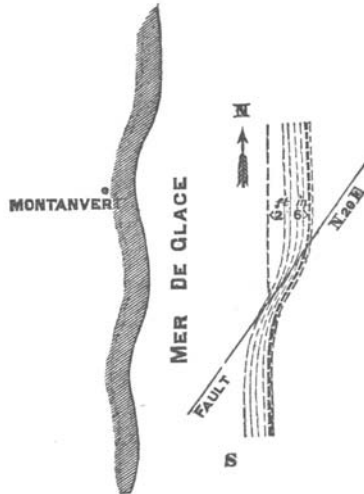


CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MOTION OF GLACIERS.

SIR,—As the motion of glaciers at the present time is by no means a decided point, perhaps the following extracts from my note-book may not be inopportune, more especially as such was observed by me for the first time, and wants corroborative evidence:—"On the 20th July, 1870, when crossing the Mer de Glace, where its breadth is reduced above Montanvert, a distinct fault was observed running N. 20 E., while the general motion of the glacier was N. This fault was observed to extend throughout the glacier, and to be a lateral fault, evidently due to contraction. The exact measurement of the throw was 2 feet 6 inches, and was measured from the veinous structure, which, along the fault, exactly corresponded with the twists peculiar to faults in shaly beds, viz., that the veinous structure was drawn in the direction of the throw. The fault line was plainly visible, but sealed as it were by pressure, and having no unevenness on the surface."

Plan of a Fault observed in the Mer de Glace, July 20, 1870.



The only conclusions I could come to were, that such fault was a very recent one, produced probably by the very uneven rate of motion, through the action of the Sun, which for that month was most intense. If not a recent fault, the veinous structure would have assumed its normal position.

RICHARD G. SYMES.

BALLINA, Co. MAYO, IRELAND, *August 14, 1871.*