

the water temperature up to a maximum of 100° C. between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. To gain space by the elimination of radiators and pipes in the offices a heating system by radiation from the ceilings was adopted at the suggestion of the firm of Sulzer. A system of hot-water pipes is embedded in the concrete and helps in its reinforcement.

The refrigeration of the four laboratories is as follows: A centrifugal ammonia compressor "Frigoroto Sulzer" of 8200 kg.-cal./hr. cools a large tank of brine to -24° C. The heat is dissipated into the air outside the building by a ribbed condenser. The brine is pumped through pipes suspended from the ceilings of the two large laboratories (-5° and -10° C.), the rate of flow being thermostatically controlled. The two smaller low-temperature laboratories are cooled by separate two-stage refrigerators "Therma Kùhlautomat" to -20° and -40° C. respectively. Here there is no brine storage, the freon evaporators being inside the cabins. The two evaporators are fed from a single condenser immersed in the brine tank cooled by the large Sulzer refrigerator. The two-stage refrigerators are small and economical owing to the low condenser temperature. The temperature control in all the laboratories is fully automatic, giving a variation of approximately 2° C. During the cold midwinter days the laboratories will soon be capable of being cooled by the admission of outside air. There will also be an installation for defreezing in order to remove the hoar which accumulates on the refrigerating system.

### GLACIER FLUCTUATION

DR. P. L. MERCANTON'S report on the fluctuations of the Swiss glaciers during the year 1946 shows that although the general trend is one of strong recession, several glaciers are still advancing. The Prapioz and the Scex-Rouge Glaciers which were receding in 1943-4 had in the next two years advanced 64 and 87 m. respectively. Out of 76 glaciers observed, the following are the percentage figures for the years 1945 and 1946 :

	<i>Advance</i>	<i>Stationary</i>	<i>Recession</i>
1945	6 per cent.	5 per cent.	89 per cent.
1946	13 „	7 „	80 „

The full report is published in *Die Alpen*, Vol. 23, 1947, pp. 313-20.

### EUSTATIC RISE IN SEA-LEVEL

IN the *Geographical Journal* (Nos. 1-3, Vol. 109, 1947, p. 157) Dr. R. W. Fairbridge gives details of slight rises of sea-level on the coast of Western Australia. These, as he suggests, can doubtless be correlated with the general recession of glaciers which has definitely been established in the northern hemisphere and of which there is accumulating evidence in parts of the southern.

In the succeeding issue (Nos. 4-6, p. 288) Dr. C. Teichert supplements these remarks with evidence on which these conclusions had been based. He concludes "Western Australia . . . provides a natural eustatic gauge, equipped with a sensitive recording material. More intensive studies of the coastal physiography of Western Australia such as are now being ably prosecuted by Dr. Fairbridge are bound to result in a better understanding of eustatic movements during the Late Quaternary, especially the Recent, period."