



AN ALPINE PASTURE.

the Caucasus range. The snow-line on the Alps varies from 9,500 or 10,000 feet on the southern slopes to about 8,500 on the northern, but great glaciers descend the valleys to about 4,500 feet. The longest glacier in Switzerland is the Aletsch, south of the Jungfrau, which is about sixteen miles long.

Many streams have their source in the snows and glaciers around Mont St. Gothard—*i.e.*, the Rhine and its tributaries the Aar and the Reuss, the Rhone and the Ticino. All these rivers flow through narrow valleys, and then expand into the lakes which flank the north-western and southern sides of central Alpineland. The streams are generally of a milky-green colour, on account of the glacial mud they bring down; but as this mud is deposited where they enter the lakes, the rivers emerge from them quite clear, and the lakes themselves are a beautiful blue.

The Western Alps are cut into a series of short ranges by transverse valleys formed by the tributaries of the Rhone on one side and of the Po on the other, several of these valleys being connected by passes—*e.g.*, the Mont Cenis Pass, between the Dora Riparia tributary of the Po and the Arc tributary of the Isère, itself a tributary of the Rhone. North of Genoa the Alps merge into the Apennines.