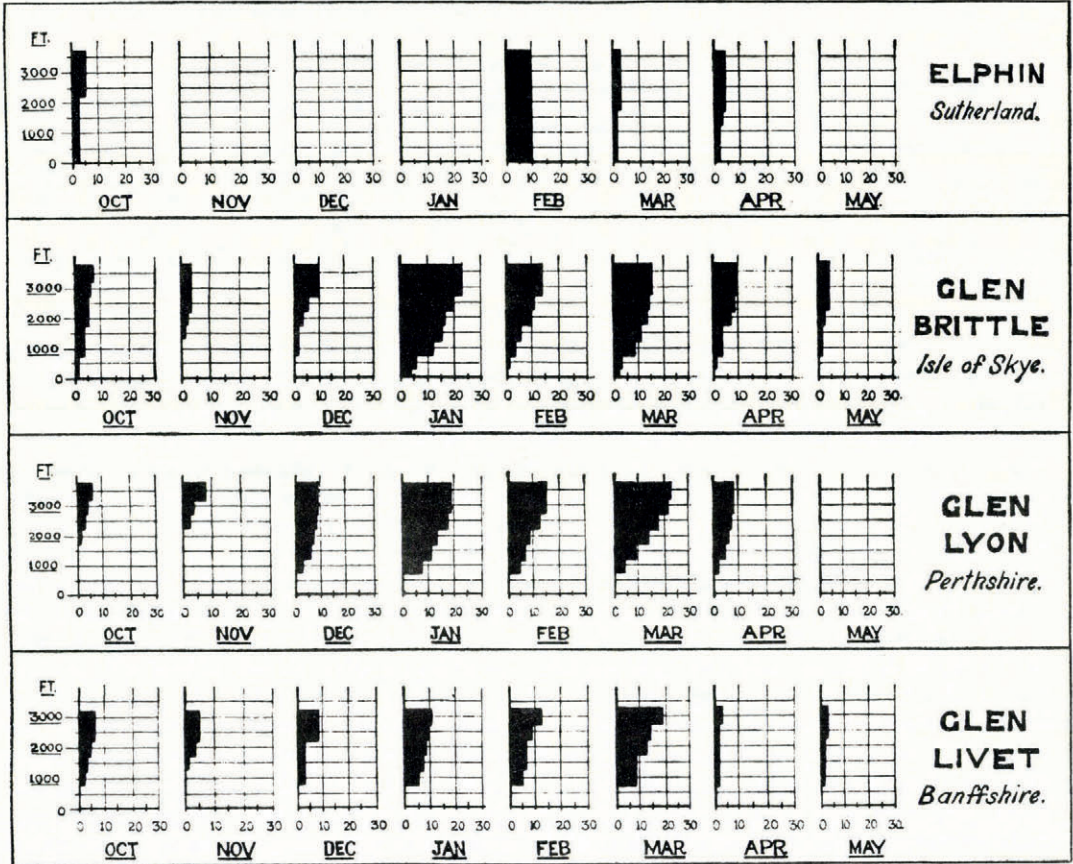


Glen Livet. Over areas comprising some hundreds of square miles in the southern counties of England and in Wales the ground was never so much as half covered by snow at the hour of morning observation, while at numerous stations in the Devon-Cornwall peninsula and the southern half of Wales the entire season was reported to have passed without either snow or sleet. According to the data available, individual snowfalls below 1000 ft. were nowhere out of the ordinary, and none seems worthy of being singled out for special comment. The four-day cover at sea-level in the Shetland Islands from *October 26th-29th* should perhaps receive mention on account of its earliness; likewise the 3 in. coating at Ardross (490 ft.) on *October 26th*. E. L. H.



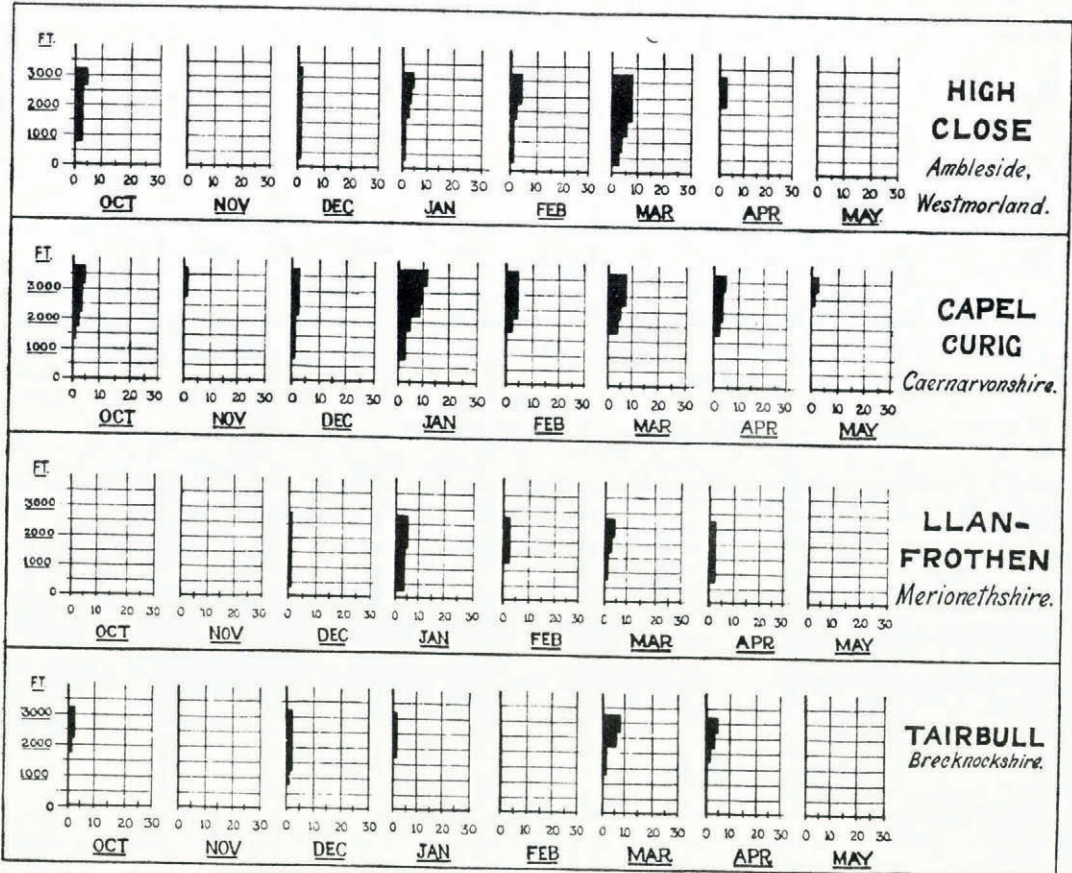
NOTE ON DURATION OF SNOW COVER ON BRITISH MOUNTAINS

In spite of the remarkably snow-free season, snow cover on our mountains was reported somewhere in every month from September to May, and in October the snow line was down to below 2000 ft. at each of the representative stations from Sutherland to South Wales, in marked contrast to the 1947-48 season when no mountain snow cover was observed in this month. The duration of snow cover in March 1949 considerably exceeded that of March 1948 at all mountain stations.

Snow cover was first reported from the Cuillins and the Cairngorms on *September 22nd*, with the snow line down to 2000 ft.

Diagrams showing the distribution of snow cover relative to height are given on pages 368 and 369, the basis for these graphs being as set out on p. 131 of the 1946-47 Report.*

At Elphin the duration of snow cover was longest at all levels in February, reaching 10 days at all altitudes, an unusual distribution relative to height due to the snowfalls being followed by heavy rains which rapidly cleared the snow at all levels. No snow was reported to be lying at any level in November, December, January or May.



At Glen Brittle in the Cuillins some snow cover was reported in every month from September to May, with a maximum of 23 days at and above 3000 ft. in January. In Glen Lyon the snow line was down to 2500 ft. in every month except May, the duration exceeding 20 days at 3000 ft. in March. In Glen Livet the snow line was down to 1000 ft. on some days in every month throughout the season, with a maximum duration of 19 days at 3000 ft. in March.

In the Lake District, at High Close, no snow cover was observed in November or May, and in no month did the duration reach 10 days at any level, the maximum being 8 days down to 2000 ft. in March.

On the Caernarvonshire mountains snow cover was observed from Capel Curig in each month

* *Journal of Glaciology*, Vol. 1, No. 3, 1948.

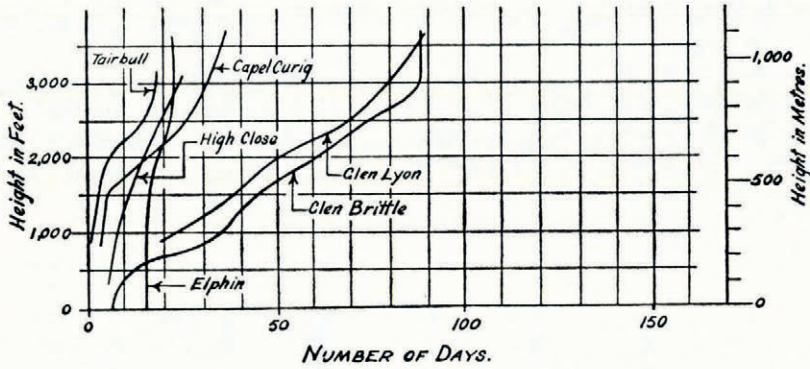


Fig. 1

of the season, though in November it was confined to but one day at 3000 ft. At this station the maximum duration was 11 days at 3500 ft. in January.

At Llanfrothen no snow lay at any level in October, November or May, and in December the duration was but one day at all levels. The maximum duration at all levels occurred in January, reaching 5 days at 2000 ft. No snow cover was reported at any level from Tairbull, Brecknockshire, in November, February or May, and in January the duration did not exceed one day. The duration in March was 9 days at 3000 ft. and 7 days at 2500 ft. In the remaining months the duration did not reach 5 days at any level.

Data from six representative stations are summarized graphically in Fig. 1 above by curves showing the total duration of the snow cover throughout the season. Above the 500 ft. level the duration on the Cuillins, as observed from Glen Brittle, exceeded that at all the other stations, with a maximum of 89 days above 3000 ft. It is of interest to note that the duration of snow cover on this range exceeded that of the 1947-48 season at all levels.

At the remaining stations the duration at all levels above 500 ft. was considerably less than in the previous two seasons and at none of the stations in England or Wales did the duration of snow cover exceed 35 days at any level.

D. L. C.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE STUDY OF AN OCEAN CORE OBTAINED BY THE SWEDISH DEEP-SEA EXPEDITION, 1947-48

By C. D. OVEY

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PROFESSOR HANS PETTERSSON returned to his country in the autumn of 1948 after leading the Swedish Deep-Sea Expedition in the *Albatross* round the world on oceanographic and marine biological exploration. One of the members of his staff was Dr. B. Kullenberg, inventor of the Kullenberg piston core-sampler, an apparatus which has raised, relatively uncompressed, the greatest thicknesses of sediments from the ocean bed so far obtained, thus revolutionizing the prospects of elucidating its past history. The first published results of an examination of one of these cores taken on the Expedition comes from Dr. F. B. Phleger¹ of Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution. Dr. Phleger studied the microfossil content of a core 15.40 m. in length from the Caribbean Sea below 2677 fathoms (4896 m.) in order to discover the climatic fluctuations as shown by the remains of foraminifera, which are temperature-indicating organisms. He examined 75 samples at about 20 cm. intervals and found that the buried shell remains of various species