eventually fuse together into a vast icy plain, whose thickness afterwards increases by its lower surface.

The water proceeding from melted ice is fresh. This is the natural consequence of a well-known physical phenomenon. When a saline solution, like that of sea water, is congealed by the cold, the pure water alone passes into a state of solidity; the more concentrated saline solution remains liquid. Water fit both for drinking and

Fig. 225.—A Field of Ice.

domestic purposes may, therefore, be obtained by melting a block of Arctic ice, which has been well cleansed in fresh water.

Salt blocks of ice, however, are found in the ice-fields, and may be distinguished from the fresh-water ice by their opacity and by a peculiar dazzling whiteness. Fresh-water ice is transparent, and denser than salt-water ice. The saltness of the latter is wholly due to the sea water retained in its interstices. The so-called fresh-water ice is easily recognized by its limpidity and beautiful emerald tint. Dr. Scoresby sometimes amused himself by fashioning matches of ice, with which he ignited gunpowder, or his sailors' tobacco-pipes, greatly