

tory where these and other climatic conditions can be reproduced and where their effects on animals can be observed. Rabbits and rats are the subjects of these experiments at present, but eventually experiments will be undertaken on human beings. The effects of high temperature and humidity are studied in a so-called "summer room," and those of a cool and fairly dry atmosphere in a "winter room."

Dr. Mills looks forward to the time when controlled indoor atmospheres will be used in the treatment of disease. We shall have, he predicts, cold rooms for fever patients and hot, moist chambers for use when blood pressure gets too high.

"It seems sure," he says, "that climatic change of any type a physician may require for his patient can soon be prescribed and carried out within the hospital or in the patient's home. A climatic cure no longer needs to mean that a patient is banished from his home or sent away from the care of his own physician."—*C. F. Talman* in *Why the Weather?* (Science Service).

H. M. Vernon, in a paper on "Industrial fatigue in relation to atmospheric conditions" (*Physiol. Rev.*, Jan., 1928, p. 130-150) states that there is much more loss in efficiency on account of atmospheric conditions in working rooms than is commonly realized.

**Crime Graph.**— The *Baltimore Evening Sun* for January 13, 1930, published a graph by James M. Hepbrun showing the seasonal course of major crimes reported to the Baltimore police during each month of 1928 and 1929. The maxima in both years were in December and high values were maintained through March. The minima were in September with moderate values through the summer months. The September minima were about 60 to 65% of the December maxima.

### DES MOINES MEETING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS (Continued from February BULLETIN, p. 38)

The afternoon session, Dec. 27, from 2:10 to 5:00 p.m. was devoted chiefly to history of American weather observing, and to world weather studies in long range forecasting. In the author's absence, Mr. J. H. Armington's paper "Indianapolis a key temperature station for Indiana" was read by title. It will be published in the *Mo. Weather Rev.*

### THE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

By CLARENCE J. ROOT, Weather Bureau Office, Springfield, Ill.

It is commonly known among those interested in meteorology that the Government meteorological work was handled by the Signal Corps of the United States Army from 1870 to 1890 and those who delve into weather records are probably familiar with the fact that the Smithsonian Institution antedated the Signal Corps. It may not be so generally known, however, that one hundred years ago this service was officially maintained by the surgeons and others at army posts, and supervised by the Surgeon-General.

A system of observations, under the general direction of the Secretary of War, was commenced in 1819. The instrumental equipment at