

irregular ones of mid-latitudes are very clearly visible. The passage of the ship through the Panama Canal is neatly traced on one of the barograms.—*C. F. B.*

Dr. P. W. Bridgman of Harvard University has frozen water at a temperature of 180 degrees Fahrenheit, only 42 degrees below its boiling point. His product is ice as real as that which forms on ponds in the winter; but it is hot ice, so hot that it will burn one's hands. It was made by putting water under a pressure of 290,000 pounds or 145 tons per square inch.—*Science Service.*

A new study of the variability of annual rainfall over the earth by Erwin Biel, has recently been summarized by Robert DeC. Ward in the *Geogr. Rev.* April 1930, pp. 339-340. Biel finds that the maximum variability of rainfall occurs in the regions of lowest amount, namely the subtropical belts of high pressure, where it is from 30 to 40 per cent on the average. The variability is small both in the equatorial zone, 13 per cent, and in the higher and middle latitudes, 12 per cent, in the southern hemisphere.—*C. F. B.*

#### HOT AIR!

The writer has his own plan for eliminating the tornado and herewith presents it for what it is worth. This scheme has the added virtues of preventing cold waves, solving the unemployment problem, and reviving the stock market. Let all the motor trucks that now infest the roads, and all the steam shovels now digging in empty lots, and all the unemployed be mobilized to the task of transporting the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian Mountains from their present locations, and erecting them along the northern and southern boundaries of the United States. This should prevent the importation of cold air from the arctic and warm moist air from the Gulf of Mexico into the interior and thus eliminate tornadoes. What else it might do is unimportant.—*N. H. B.*

#### HUMIDITY CURES HAY FEVER

The severity of hay fever varies according to the weather and the greater the humidity the less acute will be the hay fever, according to a study the results of which were announced recently by the department of immunology at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital. Between Aug. 15 and Oct. 1, 1929, a daily record was kept comparing the severity of symptoms of 100 patients in the hospital's hay fever clinic with the humidity, mean temperature and rainfall.

Humidity helped the hay fever victims, but their discomfort increased as the temperature climbed on hot, dry days. It was found that the symptoms abated on rainy days, as the pollen in the air floats more easily when dry.—*New York Times*, April 10, 1930.

#### AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY NOTES, MAY TO JULY, 1930

By DONALD C. CAMERON

Late spring frequently has spells of "summer" weather and one expects to hear of new flights, new records, including unerring records in air-mail transportation and passenger carrying. The 1930 good flying season was auspiciously opened by the voyage of the Graf Zeppelin from