

Dr. Russell has spent part of each year for the past sixteen years in visiting and examining different portions of the dry-climate area of the western United States. The results of his personal observations combined with the climatic statistics of the Weather Bureau are embodied in a new chart, published by the University of California, showing the distribution of climatic types in that part of the world.—*C. F. Talman*, in "Why the Weather?" SS.

### THE LITERATURE OF CLIMATOLOGY

"The Literature of Climatology," a paper presented by Prof. R. DeC. Ward at the Worcester meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Dec. 29, 1930, has been published in the March, 1931 issue of the *Annals* of that association. The paper is a comprehensive treatment of the extent of the literature in various important branches of climatology, and the more conspicuous gaps that need to be filled.

### RADIO RECEPTION AND WEATHER

Night-reception and air-temperature at the receiving point appear to be directly related, maximum reception being associated with maximum temperatures and vice versa. This is the reverse of the relation previously found (*Proc. Inst. Radio Eng.*, v. 12, 681, 1924; v. 14, 781, 1926) by Austin for day-reception, and is, therefore, another case of the already established inverse relation of night-to-day reception.

A correlation is also found between night-reception and pressure, signal-strength increasing as areas of low pressure pass over the receiver, and decreasing with the passages of high pressures. But as both temperature and pressure appear to be related to solar activity (*H. H. Clayton*, Solar radiation and weather, Smithsonian Inst., Misc. Collect., v. 77, No. 6, June 20, 1925; also *H. H. Clayton*, Solar activity and long-period weather-changes, Smithsonian Inst., Misc. Collect., v. 75, No. 4, September 30, 1926), it is not safe to assume that these correlations are purely those of cause and effect.—By *Greenleaf W. Pickard*. (Excerpt from *Reports from the United States of American Geophysical Union for International Geodetic and Geophysical Union*. Stockholm Assembly, August, 1930.)

At a meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers in New York City, January 7th, 1931, a technical paper on "Radio Tracking with Meteorological Balloons" was presented by W. R. Blair of the Signal Corps laboratory, Fort Monmouth, N. J., and H. M. Lewis now of the Hazeltine laboratory organization.

### ICE ON GREAT SALT LAKE

Readers of the March BULLETIN may have noticed a note (p. 66) on the occurrence of a thin coating of ice two to three miles square on Great Salt Lake. During the past years it has not been uncommon to read reports in the newspapers of the supposed freezing of the water of this great inland sea, due to the fact that ice floes have been seen drifting over its surface in the winter months. It is not well, however, to jump to conclusions too rapidly. According to J. CECIL ALTER, U. S. Weather Bureau Meteorologist at Salt Lake City, the saline water of Great Salt Lake does not freeze. In a letter he explains much of the ice on the Lake as follows: