

As in previous reports there are no citations of authority on points borrowed from the literature, except that Gisborne is mentioned as having previously done work which corroborates the Quebec findings.—*Meredith F. Burrill*, McGill University, Montreal.

Mr. E. I. KOTOK, Director of the California Forest Experiment Station, reports that his station at Berkeley is inaugurating a program of forest fire research. Included in the subjects to be investigated is one on the effect of haze and smoke on visibility. The lookout system for detecting fires when still small is seriously affected by haze and smoke during the summer fire season.

TWO NEW INSTRUMENTS

A new hand anemometer and a method of finding the direction and velocity of the wind by means of a radio transmitter developed by the Signal Corps were exhibited at the recent dinner of the American Institute in New York.

"To overcome poor visibility under cloudy or foggy conditions," said Captain James A. Code, Jr., "the Signal Corps has developed a radio transmitter which is attached to several balloons and tracked by two direction finders located at the ends of a known base line. With the angles thus determined, the ascensional rate of the balloon known, its elevation and hence the speed and direction of the wind can be calculated at various levels."

By use of a hot wire grid, the small hand anemometer, designed to measure wind velocities under ten miles an hour, has been developed. This device is so delicate that the needle on its gauge vibrated when the demonstrators breathed against it.

VETERAN OBSERVER DIES

Prof. Harley N. Pearce, one of the oldest cooperative observers in point of service, died at Bloomington, Ill., March 23, 1931. At the time of his resignation last October, due to illness, Prof. Pearce was third in length of service among the 83 weather observers in Illinois. His work was of a high order of excellence and during his 31 years of service the Bloomington record is unbroken. His unselfish service to the community is one of the outstanding examples of the public spirited duty performed by cooperative observers of the Weather Bureau, who receive no pay for their service, except the satisfaction of an important duty well done.

Prof. Pearce had been instructor in the Bloomington High School continuously for 35 years and during that time it is conservatively estimated that 2,500 boys and girls had come under the influence of his work during the formative period of their lives.—*C. J. Root*.

MAURY HONORED

Matthew Fontaine Maury, the famous American hydrographer, was honored at the Hall of Fame of New York University when a bust of him was unveiled on the fourteenth of May. The bust is the work of the sculptor, F. William Sievers, and has been given by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Matthew Fontaine Maury, 3rd, the