

During the next month a warm wave swept across the country causing temperatures 10-12 degrees above normal, with a maximum of 25°C at one place. Strong southerly winds prevailed, followed by heavy downpour in western Bulgaria. The heavy rains that fell as well in Austria, Hungary, Jugoslavia, in addition to the melting of the snow in all but the elevated parts of the

country caused the waters of the Danube to reach a dangerous level, only 30 cm below the record flood of 1897.

With the exception of June, during which the precipitation was fifty per cent above the average, the summer was a normal one. September was unusually hot and droughty. Normal conditions prevailed through the rest of the year.—*Irving I. Schell.*

DEATHS

FRANK W. PEEK, "the man who created lightning," one of the world's foremost electrical engineers, and an authority on electrical phenomena, was killed at Gascons, Quebec, when his automobile was struck by a Canadian National Railways train, July 27. He was 52 years of age.

His death halted preparations for an exhaustive study of electrical disturbances over New York, to be carried on by means of a series of lightning meters erected on the tower of the Empire State Building, and to be

read after each storm. His displays of artificial lightning thrilled many, but in ten years of experimenting he never met with an accident.—*From AP report.*

EDWIN W. KOPF, formerly Assistant Statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, died Aug. 3, at the age of 44. Mr. Kopf wrote a series of articles on the relationship between morbidity, mortality and weather conditions, which was published in the *Statistical Bulletin* of the Company.

RETIRED

Major WILLIAM W. NEIFERT, after almost 48 years of active official life, retired from the U. S. Weather Bureau April 30. Major Neifert's colorful career began with an assignment to operate a heliograph station on a mountaintop in Arizona during the campaign to subdue the Apaches. Next he was sent to Fort Reno, Indian Territory, where he remained till after the exciting opening of the Territory to white settlement. His job was chiefly to maintain the military telegraph lines from Kansas to Texas. Weather service assignments included San Antonio and Brownsville, Tex., Norfolk, Philadelphia, Vineyard Haven, Nantucket, Boston, Hartford, Dayton and Binghamton. At Martha's Vineyard he distinguished himself by his initiative and service in setting up

a "flying station" at Gay Head for communications when the U. S. S. Galena and tug Nina ran ashore. At Boston his chief duty was the climatological work of the New England section. At Hartford, frost forecasting for tobacco interests and flood warnings were his special duties, with a temporary interruption while he served as Major in the meteorological unit of the Signal Corps during the World War. At Dayton his work was especially in connection with the aviation activities at McCook and Wright fields; though he also had flood forecasting. At Binghamton he served an industrial and broad farming community. All told, he ran the gamut of varied experiences in an active career. Now he and Mrs. Neifert are enjoying quiet retirement in a suburb of Washington.