

that the first airplane meteorograph used in the United States was developed for the Navy by the Julien P. Friez Co. In 1934 an improved instrument which was also adopted by the Weather Bureau was developed by the Bureau of Aeronautics in cooperation with the National Bureau of Standards.

Therefore, prior to 1929, the Navy had made hundreds of aerological flights in various parts of the country. Since that time, the number of these flights has mounted to several thousand which doubtless exceeds those made by any meteorological organization in the world.

The Navy can also lay claim to pioneer work in the United States in the use of the Norwegian methods of air mass analysis and it was through the efforts of the Navy Department, especially the then Assistant Secre-

tary for Aeronautics Mr. E. P. Warner and Lieut. Comdr. F. W. Reichelderfer, that the first course in these methods was established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1927.

Although I am no longer connected with aerological work in the Navy, I am still interested in its progress and feel that the contributions of the Navy to the scientific development of Meteorology in this country deserve greater recognition than they have received.¹

Sincerely yours,

T. J. O'BRIEN, [signed]

Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy.

¹Cf. Comdr. O'Brien's paper: The Navy's Part in Modern Aërological Developments, *U. S. Naval Inst. Proc.*, March, 1935, pp. 385-400; also abstract by Lt. P. G. Hale in the *April, 1935*, BULLETIN, pp. 114-115.—Ed.

CORRIGENDUM

May BULLETIN, Page 153, col. 2, 8th and 9th lines from bottom: for "a simple code to give the date of" read. "the simple device of attaching the date to".

NOTES AND RESEARCH NEWS

Weather and indigestion.—Dr. T. Wingate Todd, of Western Reserve University and the Brush Foundation, reported on Oct. 30 to the Soc. for Res. in Child Development Meeting at Washington, that characteristic disturbances of the human digestive apparatus during Lent are not due to the religious fast period itself, but to atmospheric conditions at the approach of the Spring Equinox. Such disturbances are aggravated with stuffy noses near the Autumn Equinox. The effects of emotion as well as weather on the viscera were studied by means of x-ray examination of the stomach as it digested certain test meals.—*Science Suppl.*, Nov. 15, 1936, p. 10.

Anticyclones and Earthquakes.—A Mexican earthquake occurring several years ago with the onset of an intense anticyclone accompanied by snow and the coldest weather known in Mexico City for many years, at once suggested that the sudden increase in atmospheric pressure is likely to have pulled the trig-

ger of this earthquake. Such an increase in pressure coming from one direction would tilt the earth's crust and tend to cause breaks along fault lines.

Among the notes in the files of the late Professor J. B. Woodworth, noted seismologist of Harvard University, is an item entitled "Anticyclones and Earthquakes," dated November 27, 1918.

"The winter of 1917-18 was marked by several weeks of unusually high pressure and cold weather over the continent of North America. The high pressure areas came down from the north and drifted eastward to the Atlantic. The advance of one of these highs was accompanied by a severe earthquake in Guatemala and the destruction of the city of that name."

"High pressure on the north of the seismic zone appears to have resulted in yielding on the border in a zone of much lower pressure."

The note indicates that Woodworth