

Equipment is as follows: 18 ft. tower, Robinson anemometer, electrical sunshine recorder, tipping-bucket rain-gauge, snow gauge, wind vane, triple register, barograph, thermograph, maximum and minimum thermometers, sling psychrometer, and instrument shelter. The wind instruments are 183 feet above the ground, and the rain gauges and temperature instruments at an altitude of 169 feet.

Maintaining two gauges side by side in Portland, Oregon, Mr. Bernard Berenson found that one caught but 92.5 per cent as much rain as the other in 31 days with rain between October 12 and December 11, 1924. Gauge No. 1 was exposed on the ground on southwest side of house, with funnel top 7 cm. in diameter, 7.5 inches above the ground. Gauge No. 2 was at a height of 7 feet on a post 3 feet distant from No. 1. No. 2, evidently on account of wind action got the least rainfall. Gauge No. 1, however, may have been favored by some spray from the house roof. From October, 1924, to April, 1925, inclusive, Gauge No. 1 caught 40.92 inches, while the Weather Bureau's gauge  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles away and at 100 feet lower caught 33.13 inches. How much of the difference is a real difference in rainfall cannot be determined, since the exposures and sizes of the two gauges are different. It is quite evident, as Mr. Berenson says, "these figures strikingly illustrate the effect of exposure on a rain gauge," and, he might have added, emphasize the need for careful attention to the Weather Bureau's instructions to obtain uniform exposures in order to have rainfall data comparable from place to place.

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#### SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

In a dissertation, "Etude sur le Climat de la Grèce," Dr. E. G. Mariopoulos has made a thorough study of the stability of the climate of Greece during historic times. He concludes that no noticeable permanent change of climate has occurred in that country in 27 centuries. This publication of 62 pages, including maps of seasonal rainfall, was issued this year (1925) by "Les Presses Universitaires de France" 49, Boulevard St. Michel, 49, Paris.

The forecast division of the Observatorio de "El Salto," Santiago de Chile, is issuing a monthly bulletin containing a one-page printed summary of important features of the weather of South America. Sr. Julio Bustos Navarrete is Director.

We are receiving the leaflets giving the monthly summaries of the weather at Ragsit, compiled by H. Brändli, Bangkok, Siam. In addition to such phenomena as air temperature, pressure, wind, cloudiness and rainfall usually reported, there are, in terms of temperature, averages and extremes of solar and earth radiation, and relative humidity presented.

"L'Information Astronomique" is a new French journal that includes a little of meteorology and weather of Bordeaux.

"Modern Business Geography,"<sup>1</sup> by Ellsworth Huntington and Sumner Cushing, emphasizes the important part played by climate in the fields of primary production, manufacturing and consumption. In some instances a single sentence suffices, in others several paragraphs are devoted to the discussion of climatic conditions which influence the distribution of crops or the location of industries. The brief discussion is in each case so concise and carefully worded that a very few words give to the reader an exceedingly clear idea of existing conditions. Of especial interest are the accounts concerned with climate and farming climate and the several continents, and industries in relation to human activity.

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### ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Royal Meteorological Society was founded under the name of the "British Meteorological Society" on April 3, 1850, and the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary was celebrated in London on April 21 and 22. The following brief account of the history of the society and of its predecessors may therefore be of interest.

The first English Meteorological Society was founded in 1823, but became dormant shortly afterwards, and in 1836 a new society was formed, which was generally known as the Meteorological Society of London. The 1836 society developed pronounced astronomical tendencies as time went on, and this fact appears to have led to the foundation of the present society in 1850. Until 1866 the society was a voluntary association of members, but in that year a Royal Charter of incorporation was obtained, whereby members of the British Meteorological Society became fellows of the Meteorological Society. In 1882 permission was obtained to change its name to the Royal Meteorological Society.

The society at first devoted itself to the collection and publication of meteorological observations from a number of stations, chiefly in England and Wales, as well as to the reading, discussion and publication of original papers. In 1851 there was no state provision for meteorology in Great Britain. The results were published annually in the "Meteorological Record" from 1881 until 1910. In 1911 the work was transferred to the state service, the Meteorological Office. Many investigations undertaken by the society are of great importance, one being the collection of phenological observations from all parts of the British Isles.

The celebration on April 21 and 22 took the form of (1) a visit to the Kew Observatory; (2) a conversazione at which a number of exhibits were arranged and Mr. F. J. W. Whipple showed a number of experiments, including the formation of halos, coronae, and the green ray; (3) an anniversary meeting at which Prof. E. van Everdingen delivered a lecture on "Clouds and Forecasting Weather"; and (4) an anniversary dinner.—Excerpts from article in *Nature*, May 2, 1925, pp. 657-658.

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<sup>1</sup> World Book Co., Yonkers-on-Hudson, N. Y. 352 pp., 188 figs., tables.