

just over six months would, in the graph, appear as one year, since fractions of a year are not shown. There is, accordingly, some uncertainty as to the precise significance of the findings expressed by this graph. We present the facts and figures here for the study and consideration of our readers, without bias. Parallelism such as this must be viewed with some caution, but it certainly seems very suggestive.

That there should be a relation between rainfall and the deathrate from typhoid fever is in itself plausible, though the precise nature of the relation may be somewhat complicated. For, on the one hand, in an exceptionally wet year the rising level of the ground water is liable to sweep contaminating matter into sources of drinking water that in ordinary times are relatively pure. On the other hand, in very dry weather, consumers may be induced by shortage at their customary sources to draw upon other sources which they would ordinarily avoid. So two conflicting influences may be at work, and it is difficult to say *a priori* just what their resultant effect would be.—*Statistical Bulletin, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Sept., 1927, Vol. VIII, pp. 5-9.*

OCEAN TEMPERATURES AND LAND TEMPERATURES

Because my statement on page 149 of the October BULLETIN that the air moves from continent to ocean in summer and back again in winter was misunderstood by at least one person, it seems well to amplify the statement somewhat so as to make my meaning clearer. What I had in mind was the air mass movement as indicated by the atmospheric pressure. As the temperature rises over the interior of the continents in summer the pressure falls and rises over the oceans in corresponding latitudes. This means that a large mass of air has moved from the continent to the ocean. The movement probably takes place in the upper currents of the atmosphere. After the differences of pressure are established, a surface current arises directed from the ocean to the land in the effort to restore equilibrium. But as long as the temperature remains high over the land the low pressure is maintained. When winter comes the land surfaces become cold and the pressure becomes higher over the continents and lower over the oceans at corresponding latitudes. In each case I am speaking of surface pressures reduced to sea level. This fact indicates that an immense mass of air has moved back from the ocean to the land. If another explanation of this change of pressure is found, other explanations of the facts will be possible.—*H. Helm Clayton.*

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY

Though this committee sponsored by the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for Promotion of Aeronautics has existed only since the end of July, it has already embarked energetically upon its duties. One of its first