interesting details of these are given in the observer's journals. The storms only occur when the air is moist; the most favorable condition is during the time a light, soft snow is falling. When the hands are held up, sparks emanate from the tips of the fingers. At such times, with considerable wind, the anemometer-cups look like a circle of fire. Each flake of snow, as it alights on a mule's or burro's back, gives a spark like a firebug. The station was once struck by lightning. The electricity came down the anemometer-rod, following along the wire running to the battery. Every place the wire crossed a nail, the head of the nail was fused, and the wire melted at the same point.

In addition to the regular meteorological observations on the summit of Pike's Peak which appear in the "Annals," other special observations have been made.

HEALTH MATTERS.

Contagious Pneumonia.

DR. F. MOSLER, in a paper read before the Greifswald Medical Society, gives details of a series of cases of acute pneumonia in a family where there seemed every reason for believing that contagion was the cause of the spread of the disease. The patients, says the *Lancet* of Jan. 25, 1890, were all attacked during the last fortnight of January, 1889; the first to fall ill being the father, who died on Jan. 22, the fifth day of his illness. On this day his wife was attacked, and she too succumbed on the fifth day of the disease. While she was ill, her son, who constantly visited his parents during their illness, himself was attacked on the 26th. He was thirty years of age, strong and temperate, but succumbed on the twelfth day of the attack. Further, his sister, who had come from Arendsee, near Stralsund, to be with her sick parents, and who staid in their house from Jan. 22 to Jan. 26, was attacked at Arendsee on Jan. 29, and was admitted into the Greifswald Hospital. She alone recovered.

Dr. Mosler points out that the parents' house was dry, the two rooms they inhabited were well ventilated and clean, and that there had been no illnesses in the house within the past five years. He thinks the father must have acquired his pneumonia outside, and that the disease was communicated in turn to the members of his family by contagion through the sputa. In the case of the son, a *post-mortem* examination showed that the form of pneumonia was not the typical one: it was more lobular, was accompanied by a hemorrhagic pleurisy and by swelling of the spleen. Moreover, an examination by Professor Grawitz of some of the fluid withdrawn from the lung of the daughter during the height of the disease resulted in the discovery of bacilli resembling those of rabbit septicæmia, but neither the pneumono-bacillus of Friedländer nor the pneumono-coccus of Fränkel was found. In the case of the son, the blood from the heart yielded a similar micro-organism. Dr. Mosler thinks that such facts, as well as the peculiarities of the morbid anatomy of the latter case, suggest the occurrence of a special form of pulmonary inflammation, owning a cause different from that of the ordinary form. He sees in such cases a reason for believing that many varieties of poison may give rise to pneumonia. But the main lesson from the cases is that of contagiousness, and the need for the careful disposal and disinfection of the sputa, which he believes to have been the infective medium in these cases. He refers to recent contributions of Finkler and Cantani on infectivity of pneumonia, the latter recording some striking instances where the disease was more of the lobular than the lobar type.

MOUTH-BREATHING AND THE TEETH. — Dr. Scanes Spicer read a paper at the last meeting of the Odontological Society of London, upon "Nasal Obstruction and Mouth-Breathing as Factors in the Etiology of Disorders of the Teeth." In the course of his remarks, as we learn from the *Lancet* of Jan. 8, he said he had been struck with the frequency with which carious teeth were associated with obstruction of the pharynx and enlarged tonsils; so much so, that he had made it a routine practice to examine the teeth in all cases of nasal obstruction, and he believed that there existed a relation between them; and he further is of opinion that there is a generic relation between some cases of vaulted arch, narrow jaws, and irregular teeth, and nasal obstruction. Normally we should breathe through the nose, so as to warm and filter the air respired. All animals, savage races, and young infants do so; but a large number of adults of civilized nations breathe through the mouth, because they have some obstruction of the nasal passages, — erectile tumors, permanent catarrhal affections, polypi, post-nasal adenoid growths, etc. Mouth-breathing, he said, as a predisposing cause of caries of the teeth, came into action in various ways. The teeth were exposed to a current of air of a much lower temperature than that of the body, which would tend to cause inflammation of the periosteum and pulp of a tooth; the cold, dry air produced congestion of the mucous membrane, with a secretion of stringy acid mucus; and the rapid evaporation of water which takes place when the mouth is constantly open inspissated this mucus, which so formed a fertile soil for the development of micro-organisms. Again: when sleeping with the mouth open, the tongue falls back, and the parotid secretion finds its way directly through the pharynx instead of bathing and washing the teeth. With reference to the so-called V-shaped maxilla, Dr. Spicer thought that many cases might be traced to mouth-breathing, the muscles of the cheek pressing unduly upon the soft alveoli when the mouth is open.

SCRATCHING THE BACK FOR INTERMITTENT FEVER. — Dr. Alois Fénykövy communicates to a Vienna medical journal an account of some observations made on the treatment of intermittent fever by means of friction of the back along the spine. Many years ago, as stated in the *Lancet*, while at Nisch with his regiment, there occurred so many cases of intermittent fever that the stock of quinine was becoming exhausted, and, in order that the patients might not be entirely without some sort of treatment, it was ordered that they should be rubbed twice a day along the spine with simple ointment. The day after this order had been given it appeared that the usual attack had not come on. Accordingly since that time Dr. Fénykövy has very frequently employed this treatment, and usually with marked success. Indeed, he says that three-fourths of his cases have done very well without any quinine at all.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE English Royal Meteorological Society have arranged to hold at 25 Great George Street, Westminster, on March 18 to 21 next, an exhibition of instruments and photographs illustrating the application of photography to meteorology.

— Herr Trautweiler thinks that a railway should go to the top of the Jungfrau, and in the *Schweizerische Bauzeitung* gives a brief account of his scheme. The railway would go from the valley below to the summit, and would be almost entirely under ground. There would be several intermediate stations, from which convenient, well-arranged tunnels would lead to points on the mountain whence the best views are to be had. If stormy weather came on, the passengers could withdraw into the shelter of those tunnels. The railway would be lighted by electricity.

— The Thomson-Houston Electric Company of Boston are building several large electric motors, or electric locomotives, for a street-railway company in that city. Each locomotive will be powerful enough to draw a train of cars.

— The Russian Government, it is stated, has announced its intention to begin operations soon on the great railway across Siberia. Work will begin at Vladivostok and at the present eastern terminus of the Russian railway system at the same time. The total length of the line is to be 4,375 miles.

— The Jull snow-excavator, illustrated and described in these columns some months ago, received several severe tests during the recent snow blockades on Western railroads. On Feb. 3 it opened up a blockade on a road between Pendleton, Ore., and