

these are of enough importance to merit a separate discussion. Figs. 3 and 4 exhibit these cases. It will be clearly understood that these are the most serious discordances in the records for more than three years and a half. If it is possible to explain or elucidate these cases, we have practically attained the same result in Austria that we found in this country. During both these periods a high area of great magnitude and persistency settled over this region. We have no similar phenomena in this country as this of high areas (30.7 inches) remaining over one spot for ten days or a fortnight. In Fig. 3 there is no marked fall in temperature at Salzburg; and at Görz, on the south, the curve is almost flat. If we could shift the Sonnblick curve five days later, we would have an almost exact accordance between that and Görz, though I do not insist that that is a necessary view to take. When we look at Fig. 4 we see that there is an exact accordance between the Sonnblick and the Görz curve for a part of the way, and with Salzburg for the rest, so that here all the difficulty disappears at once. We may well believe that in this mountain region there will be great irregularities in the effect of the sun upon the earth and atmosphere. During the prevalence of such high areas the air becomes almost calm and stagnant, and it is an open question whether under these conditions the sun may not have a strong effect at the higher station during the day-time, while the radiation at night would be very much less than at the base; and hence there may be a steady accumulation of heat at the upper station, while at the lower the curve would be nearly horizontal or slightly depressed. It should be noted that while with the progress of ordinary high areas there may be a fall of 20°, and even 40°, at the base, yet in these cases it was very much less, amounting to less than 10° in November.

It is realized that this is merely a beginning in this discussion, and it is hoped that others will take it up, for it is all-important that this whole question be settled.

H. A. HAZEN.

Washington, D.C., Aug. 26.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE D. Van Nostrand Company have issued, as No. 98 of their Science Series, "Practical Dynamo-Building for Amateurs," by Frederick Walker. In this little volume the construction of a dynamo is described in detail so carefully and clearly that any intelligent amateur, skilled in the use of tools, will have no difficulty in producing an efficient machine wound for any desirable output. The book is the first American edition of the work, carefully revised from the second English edition.

—Dr. J. M. Mills of New York has been for several years studying the relation of eye-strain to headaches, etc., among children, and publishes a summary of his findings in an illustrated article in *Babyhood* for September. There appears to be no doubt that cases of short sight, far sight, and irregular sight often go unrecognized until the continued eye-strain results in a chronic headache and lassitude, or even serious nervous disorder. Other articles in the same issue are "Malaria," "Helps for the Fretful Baby," "Occupations and Amusements," and questions and answers upon subjects connected with the diet and clothing of children.

—A work in two quarto volumes, on "The Fossil Insects of North America," by Dr. Samuel H. Scudder of Cambridge, will be issued early in October by Macmillan & Co. The two volumes, of which only one hundred copies will be issued, not only contain, with some slight exceptions, a description of all the species of fossil insects of all American strata so far as known, but practically include the entire body of literature on this topic. The work will be illustrated by about sixty full-page plates, and occasional figures in the text. An English translation by Dr. George McGowan, of Professor Ernest von Meyers's "History of Chemistry," is announced for early publication by the same firm; also (in September) an illustrated work by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt of the Smithsonian Institution, entitled "The Myology of the Raven, a Guide to the Muscular System of Birds."

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