

that sweetens the severity of art. A meeting of good workers is a remembrance of pleasure, giving its zest to the aims of the year.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE WEATHER SERVICES.

A CONVENTION of representatives of State weather services was held in Rochester, N.Y., on Aug. 15 and 16, 1892, in conjunction with the forty-third meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The convention was called to order by Professor Mark W. Harrington, chief of the Weather Bureau, who made an address of welcome to the representatives present. He suggested certain important subjects for discussion, and appointed committees on permanent organization, programme, etc.

A permanent organization was effected, and the following officers were elected: President, Major H. H. C. Dunwoody; first vice-president, B. S. Pague of Oregon; second vice-president, G. M. Chappel of Iowa; secretary, R. E. Kerkam, chief of State Weather Service Division, Weather Bureau; and treasurer, W. L. Moore of Wisconsin.

The title, American Association of State Weather Services, was adopted by the convention, and it was decided to hold annual conventions in future at the same time and place as those of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The following representatives were in attendance: The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, being represented by Professor Mark W. Harrington, chief; Major H. H. C. Dunwoody, forecast official; Mr. R. E. Kerkam, chief of State Weather Service Division; Mr. N. B. Conger, inspector; and Mr. F. J. Randolph, stenographer; F. H. Clarke, Arkansas; J. A. Barwick, California; John Craig, Illinois; C. F. R. Wappenhans, Indiana; G. M. Chappel, Iowa; Frank Burke, Kentucky; E. A. Evans, Michigan; G. A. Lovelend, Nebraska; J. Warren Smith, New England; E. W. McGann, New Jersey; R. M. Hardinge and W. O. Kerr, New York; C. M. Strong, Ohio; B. S. Pague, Oregon; H. L. Ball, Pennsylvania; S. W. Glenn, South Dakota; G. N. Salisbury, Utah; J. N. Ryker, Virginia; and W. L. Moore, Wisconsin.

Many of the representatives who were unable to be present at the convention forwarded papers giving their views on various subjects of interest to be discussed.

The subject of instrument-shelters and a uniform manner of their exposure was debated, and it was the consensus of opinion that a uniform pattern of shelter should be adopted for use throughout the entire country. The subject was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs Smith, Moore, and Pague, with instructions to report as to the most suitable shelter and manner of exposure to be generally adopted by State weather services.

On the subject of whether the voluntary observers should be supplied with self-registering maximum and minimum thermometers, the prevailing opinion was that such instruments should be issued and used in determining temperature means and averages, wherever and whenever practicable. The old method of making readings at 7 A.M., 2 P.M., and 9 P.M. of the dry thermometer shall be continued whenever desired, but the means should be deduced from the self-registering thermometers where such instruments are in use.

As to the adoption of a form to cover the needs of a great majority of the voluntary observers who are supplied with dry or maximum and minimum thermometers and rain-gauges, it was decided to adopt a form which was suggested by the secretary, so arranged as to admit of making three or four copies, at one writing, by means of the indelible carbon process, thus saving the observers the copying of the form at the end of the month; the object of this arrangement being to give a copy of the monthly report to the office of the chief of the Weather Bureau, one to the office of the director of the State service, and one to be retained by the observer, and also to make such additional copies as he may desire to furnish to the local press, etc.

The forecasting of thunder-storms was the fourth subject discussed, and an interesting paper on this topic was read by the Wisconsin representative.

The proposition to print the weekly, monthly, and annual reports of the State weather services in a uniform manner was freely discussed. The desirability of uniform reports was generally admitted, but it was thought impracticable at this time to take any action in the matter, as a number of States have appropriated funds for printing reports according to definite size and style.

The discussion of the question of the best methods of signaling weather forecasts by display-men covered a wide range. The flag, the whistle, the semaphore, and the sphere, bomb, and flash-light systems were freely discussed, and an interesting paper was presented by the New England representative on the system of spherical bodies hoisted on a staff. This subject was referred to a committee composed of Messrs. Conger, Glenn, and Kerkam, for report at the earliest practicable date.

On the subject of inspection of voluntary observers' stations the decision was that each voluntary station should be inspected at least once each year, to keep up the interest of the voluntary observers and to enable the directors of State services to become thoroughly familiar with each station and its surroundings. It was recommended by the association that sufficient leave of absence be granted the Weather Bureau representative at each State service centre to enable him to make a tour of inspection.

Relative to the subject — the relations of State weather services to agricultural colleges and experiment stations — it was decided that, owing to the lack of telegraphic facilities and other means of disseminating weather information, it would not be practicable generally to have the central stations of the State weather services at such colleges or stations, but that a very close co-operation would be desirable.

The subject of an exhibit at the World's Fair was the last general subject discussed. It was decided that each State service should have its exhibit in the building set apart for the use of the State, and not to have the exhibits collected in the building for the use of the United States Weather Bureau.

Mr. E. T. Turner of New York and Mr. E. H. Nimmo of Michigan were elected to active membership in the association, and the following honorary members were also elected: E. F. Smith, California; Professor R. Ellsworth Call, Iowa; Charles C. Nauck, Arkansas; Professor William H. Niles, Massachusetts; G. H. Whitchee, New England; H. G. Reynolds, Michigan; H. F. Alciatore, Oregon; Major Richard V. Gaines, Virginia; Professor A. L. McRae, Missouri; C. F. Schneider, Michigan; Professor Louis McLouth, South Dakota; and all active voluntary observers of the United States Weather Bureau.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. THEODOR GRAF of Vienna has in his possession a remarkable treasure in the shape of fragments of the Bible recently found in Egypt. They consist of a portion of Zechariah, chapters iv–xiv., in the shape of a papyrus book in a fair state of preservation. The fragment is that of a Greek translation, and from the shape of the letters the MS. would appear to belong to the fourth century, making it the oldest Bible MS. thus far discovered. The same papyrus also contains fragments of Malachi.

— The current number of the *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* contains an article of the highest importance by the distinguished Egyptologist, Dr. Adolf Erman. He discusses in a most cautious way the supposed relationship of the Egyptian with the Semitic languages. A careful examination of the consonants and vowels, the accent, the pronominal suffixes, the pronouns, and the demonstratives, the nouns, adjectives, numerals, and verbs, as well as of the syntax, leads to the conclusion that on the grammatical side there is sufficient evidence to warrant the assertion of a relationship between Egyptian and Semitic. An examination of the vocabularies shows only a comparatively small number of words which are identical, but this number will probably be increased when the laws of phonetic change come to be better understood. The conclusions of Professor Erman, if accepted, will be epoch-making, since they will establish the identity of the culture of the Nile and Mesopotamian valleys.