dowed men. Ryder was patient and dignified. He was not a Pegasus chafing in his harness, but as one consecrated to the calling of his choice and on whose heart the lowliest duties on itself did lay. But we are the losers. We cannot but be saddened at the knowledge that he did not live to put in form and substance the results of his profound labors. His work is like an unfinished house webbed in scaffolding, with heaps of building material scattered about the ground. The spirits to which Ryder was kin (the Keats, the Mozarts), visit us at long intervals, and when they come we treat them as though they were ordinary mortals after all.

Harrison Allen.

REPORTS OF INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL MEETINGS.

Two of these have lately been received; the first being the Report of the International Meteorological Congress, held at Chicago in August, 1893. This Congress was remarkable for the number of papers presented rather than for the number of persons who assembled to hear them read, and yet it seemed doubtful whether they could be published, as the Congress Auxiliary of the Columbian Exposition had no funds available. Fortunately, the U. S. Weather Bureau was able to accomplish this in its series of Bulletins, Bulletin 11, Part II., now before us, forming Part II. of the Report, which is devoted to history and bibliography, agricultural meteorology, atmospheric electricity and terrestrial magnetism. The first section is of special interest, as it contains a detailed account of the commencement and development of meteorology in the United States, with which the Army Medical Department, the Smithsonian Institution, the Hydrographic Office and the Signal Service were chiefly concerned. Two papers of much bibliographical interest, relating to English meteorological literature from 1337 to 1699 and to meteorology and terrestrial magnetism in the fifteenth, sixteeenth and seventeenth centuries, were contributed, respectively, by Mr. Symons, of London, and Dr. Hellmann, of Berlin, the two highest authorities on this subject. This Report is edited by Mr. O. L. Fassig, the able librarian of the Weather Bureau, who deserves great praise for effecting translations of the various foreign papers, with no pecuniary assistance, and otherwise performing a difficult task in so satisfactory a manner. Part I., which appeared more than a year ago, contained the papers on weather services and methods, rivers and floods and marine meteorology; while Part III. will comprise climatology, instruments and methods of observation and theoretical meteorology.

The second report to be mentioned is that of the International Meteorological Committee, chosen at the Munich Conference in 1891, which held its first meeting at Upsala in August, 1894. The proceedings are published in three languages, and the English edition, prepared by Mr. R. H. Scott, Secretary to the Committee, is issued as No. 115 of the official publications of the London Meteorological Office. The present members of the Committee and the countries which they represent are as follows: Messrs. von Bezold (Prussia), Billwiller (Switzerland), de Brito-Capello (Portugal), Davis (Argentine Republic), Eliot (India), Ellery (Victoria, Australia), Hann (Austria), Harrington (United States), Hepites (Roumania), Hildebrandsson (Sweden), Mascart (France), Mohn (Norway), Paulsen (Denmark), Scott (Great Britain), Snellen (Holland), Tacchini (Italy) and Wild (Russia). Among the most important resolutions was that the proposed International Meteorological Bureau was not realizable, but that the Committee appeared to be the proper body to establish and maintain relations between the

different institutions and to arrange for the carrying-out of investigations of general utility. It was decided that a conference, similar to that of Munich, should be held in Paris in September, 1896. The Cloud Committee, consisting of Messrs. Hann, Hildebrandsson, Mohn, Riggenbach, Rotch and Teisserenc de Bort reported upon the proposed cloud atlas, its cloud definitions and the instructions for observing them. It was recommended that measurements of the altitude of clouds (preferably by photographic methods) at a limited number of stations, and direct observation of the velocity of motion of clouds at a larger number of stations throughout the world, be commenced May 1, 1896, and continued one year.

A. LAWRENCE ROTCH.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE *American Chemical Society* held its eleventh general meeting at Springfield, Mass., August 27th and 28th. The address of welcome was delivered by Mayor Charles L. Long, and the response to the same was made by the President of the Society, Professor Edgar F. Smith. No business was transacted, the entire time of the three sessions being wholly devoted to the reading of the following papers and to their discussion:

1. 'Determination of the Heating Effect of Coal,' W. A. Noyes, J. R. McTaggart and H. W. Craven. 2. 'Use of Aluminum for Condensers,' T. H. Norton. 3. 'A Case of Mistaken Identity' (relating to the tetrachloride of zirconium), F. P. Venable. 4. 'The Determination of Sulphur in Refined Copper,' George L. Heath. 5. 'The Possibility of the Occurrence of Hydrogen and Methane in the Atmosphere,' Francis C. Phillips. 6. 'The Evolution Method for the Determination of Sulphur in Iron,' Francis C. Phillips. 7. 'Metaphosphinic Acids and their Derivatives,' Henry N. Stokes. 8. 'The Analysis of Alloys Containing Tin, Lead and Antimony,' Launcelot Andrews. 9. 'Observations on Double Platinum Salts,' Charles N. Herty. 10. 'A New Electrical Process in Making White-lead,' R. P. Williams. 11. 'Estimation of the Extraction in Sugar Houses' (by title), M. Trubeck. 12. 'Tellurium, its Separation from Copper Residues with Notes on some New Reactions,' Cabell Whitehead. 13. 'Arsenic in Glycerol,' George E. Barton. 14. 'The Occurrence of Trimethylene Glycoll as a By-Product in the Glycerine Manufacture,' Arthur A. Noyes. 15. 'The Electrolytic Reduction of Para-nitro Compounds in Sulphuric Acid Solution,' Arthur A. Noyes. 16. 'Speed of Oxidation by Chloric Acid,' Robert B. Warder and Herman Schlundt. 17. 'Acidimetric Estimation of Vegetable Alkaloids,' Lyman F. Kebler. 18. 'A Study of Some of the Gas-producing Bacteria' (by title), A. A. Bennett. 19. 'Picrates' (by title), George B. Pfeiffer. 20. 'A New Burette Holder,' W. K. Robbins. 21. 'A New Form of Water Bath,' W. P. Mason. 22. 'The Reaction Between Concentrated Sulphuric Acid and Copper,' Charles Baskerville.

After all the papers had been read President Edward Morley, of the American Association, who was present, was called upon for remarks, and he summed up the results that have been secured by the various workers who have labored to determine with accuracy the atomic weight of oxygen, giving as the final probable average of the results 15.879. These remarks were of especial interest, as Prof. Morley himself has done more than any other investigator to determine the atomic weight of oxygen, spending years upon the subject and making a number of elaborate and careful determinations. President Smith, of the Society, then gave a warm tribute to the work done by Prof. Morley and congratulated the chemists of this country on having among their number one whose work ranks with the highest done by any investigator in the world.

The Society visited the works of the Holyoke Paper Company, of the Merrick Thread Company, the plant of the Farr Alpaca Company, the Hampton Paint and Chemical Company and the U. S. Arsenal.

The present membership of the Society is 950. Eight active sections now exist in various parts of the United States, with