waters that produce a broader counter current north than south of the equator in the Indian ocean, that limit the south counter of the Pacific to the western part of that ocean, and that exclude a south counter current entirely from the Atlantic.

W. M. Davis.

Harvard University.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

THE CLIMATOLOGY OF MARYLAND.

A second edition of the Climatology of Maryland, originally published in 1894, has been issued as the *Second Biennial Report of the Maryland State Weather Service.* The data used in this compilation are the observations of the years 1892 to 1895, inclusive, and five charts accompany the report, showing the mean seasonal and mean annual precipitation and temperature. The Maryland Weather Service, organized in 1891, under the joint auspices of the Johns Hopkins University, the Maryland Agricultural College and the U. S. Weather Bureau—a very happy combination of elements— deserves great credit for the work it is doing for meteorology in the United States.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS IN SCHOOLS.

The Connecticut State Board of Education has issued a pamphlet on *Meteorological Observations in Schools* (Conn. School Doc. No. 10, 1896), which is intended to serve as an outline for the use of teachers who wish to give their scholars some practice in taking systematic meteorological observations of the simplest character. The time has come when some beginning in the teaching of meteorology in our schools should be made, and in order that such instruction may be systematic, and may serve as a basis for more advanced work in the later school years, an outline such as the present one is necessary. Teachers who are giving any attention to meteorology will find the pamphlet useful.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY PUBLICATIONS.

The following recent publications are worthy of note:

H. C. Russell: *A Map Showing the Average Monthly Rainfall in New South Wales.* (Read before the Royal Society of New South Wales, November 7, 1894.) The map shows, for each square degree of the Colony, the mean rainfall for every month.

Süring und Berson: *Die XV. Fahrt des Ballons 'Phönix' am 1 July, 1894.* (Zeitschr. f. Luftschiffahrt, February–March, 1896, 29–53.) An account of a balloon ascent to an altitude of 17,226 feet. Full meteorological observations were taken.

R. De C. Ward.

Harvard University.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

ASTRONOMY.

The Saxon Academy has recently published a paper by Dr. Bruno Peter, containing the results of his observations with the new Repsold heliometer of the Leipzig observatory. The paper contains an extensive investigation of the instrument and a determination of the parallaxes of three stars whose parallaxes had not previously been measured. The most interesting thing brought out in the investigation of the instrument is an experimental verification of the possibility of eliminating entirely the effects of a varying focal adjustment of the eye-piece by the use of certain peculiarly shaped diaphragms in front of the object glass. That this is possible had been previously suggested from theoretical considerations by Dr. Abbe, of Jena. The only point in which Dr. Peter's method of observation differs materially from that usually employed is in the determination of the error of runs separately for each observation, instead of employing a constant value for the night.

The parallax observations have been effected very nearly according to the program used by Gill. The results obtained are as follows:

	Parallax.	
Bradley 3077,	+0″.13	±0″.012
Arg.-Oeltz. 10603,	+0″.17	±0″.013
31 Aquilæ,	+0″.06	±0″.015