

garded as modifying the first part of the Clause, or in any way throwing open the whole question of notation and classification.

33. Professor Rücker having made a statement as to the probable cost of the undertaking, and the delegates having stated what assistance in their opinion might be expected from their respective countries, it was resolved :

That the delegates to this Conference be requested to obtain information, and to report at any early date to the 'Provisional International Committee,' as to what assistance, by subscription or otherwise, towards the support of the Central Bureau may be expected from their respective countries.

34. M. Mascart called attention to Resolution 22 as being, in his opinion, incorrect in English, the intention being that the local Committee therein referred to should report to the International Committee.

35. The Royal Society was requested to undertake the editing, publication and distribution of a verbatim report of the Proceedings of the Conference.

36. It was resolved that the *procès verbal* of the Conference be signed by the President and Secretaries.

37. On the motion of Professor Armstrong, the thanks of the Conference were accorded to the Society of Antiquaries for the use of their rooms.

38. On the motion of Professor Klein, a vote of thanks to Sir John Gorst for presiding over the Conference, and his conduct in the chair, was passed by acclamation.

39. On the motion of M. Darboux, a vote of thanks was passed to the Royal Society for their work in preparation for the Conference and their cordial reception of the delegates.

(Signed) JOHN E. GORST, *President*.

HENRY E. ARMSTRONG,

H. LA FONTAINE,

E. WEISS, *Secretaries*.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

##### WEST INDIAN SERVICE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU.

THE *Monthly Weather Review* for July contains a paper by Professor E. B. Garriott on the West Indian Service of the United States Weather Bureau. The Service was undertaken under an Act of Congress approved July 7, 1898. Observations by regular observers of the Weather Bureau were begun at Kingston, Jamaica; Santo Domingo; St. Thomas; Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Willemstad, Curaçoa, on August 9th. Observations at Santiago were begun on August 11th, and at Bridgetown, Barbadoes, on August 31st. Regular reports have for some years been received from Havana, Cuba; Nassau, Bahamas, and Hamilton, Bermuda. The central station is at Kingston, and all other stations of the system cable daily, to Washington and to Kingston, reports of observations taken at 6 a. m. and 6 p. m., 75th meridian time. When the weather conditions are unusual, or there are signs of an approaching hurricane, special observations are telegraphed. Additional daily morning and evening reports are telegraphed to Washington via Galveston, Texas, from Tampico, Vera Cruz and Coatzacoalas, and from Merida, Yucatan. Arrangements have been made for the prompt distribution of hurricane warnings from Washington to West Indian and Southern coast ports in the threatened district. The Service is at present an emergency service, but it is expected that, with the cooperation of the European governments having possessions in the West Indies, and of the countries bordering on the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, a permanent system of stations can be established, which shall permit the forecasting of hurricanes and northers, and shall carry out a study of the climatologic conditions of the West Indies.

## ANTARCTIC METEOROLOGY.

THE recent revival of interest in Antarctic exploration is a welcome sign to meteorologists, for Antarctic meteorology is in a sad state of incoherence and uncertainty. Our knowledge of the meteorological conditions of the Arctic is now in a fairly satisfactory state as compared with what we know of the sister zone around the South Pole. The October number of the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* is a 'Special Antarctic Number.' It contains reprints of Sir John Murray's address before the Royal Society, on 'The Scientific Advantages of an Antarctic Expedition,' with the remarks of Buchan, Neumayer and others made in connection with that address. Further, 'A History of Antarctic Discovery,' by the acting editor, and a most valuable Antarctic Bibliography, containing titles of publications bearing dates from 1761 to 1898, compiled by Bartholomew. A chart of the South Polar Region, after Sir John Murray's scheme for Antarctic exploration, presents, in small marginal charts, the mean temperature and the isobars and winds of the region in February. On the latter chart a considerable number of wind arrows (in red) are added to the observed wind directions (in black), in order to emphasize the hypothetical wind circulation around the South Pole. This hypothetical circulation is strongly anticyclonic in character. It remains to be seen, as the result of observation, how accurate this prediction is.

## THE ASCENT OF ACONCAGUA.

THE physiological effects of the diminished pressure at high altitudes, noted during the ascent of Aconcagua in 1896, are vividly described by Fitzgerald in *McClure's Magazine* for October. During the night spent at 16,000 feet one of the porters suffered terribly from nausea and faintness. At 18,700 feet Fitzgerald himself was completely used

up. "It was very difficult to sleep more than a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes at a time without being awakened by a fit of choking." At 21,000 feet one of the porters was very ill, his face turning a greenish, livid hue. All the members of the party suffered from severe headache and mental depression, the usual symptoms of *soroche*. At 22,000 feet Fitzgerald was completely disabled, and was obliged to lie on his back, gasping for breath. He was so weak that he could not hold himself for more than a few paces at a time, and continually fell forward, cutting himself on the stones that covered the mountain side. The summit was reached by Zurbriggen, the Swiss guide, Fitzgerald himself being unable to continue the ascent owing to mountain sickness.

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## CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

## INDIAN GEOGRAPHIC NAMES.

SCATTERED over the map of the United States are many thousand local names derived from the various aboriginal dialects which were once spoken in the vicinities. In sound they are often harmonious and in meaning picturesque. It is a commendable curiosity which searches for this meaning, and also it is of ethnologic value, for sometimes these names are the chief or only evidence that the area where they occur was inhabited by some particular tribe or stock. A complete gazetteer of such would be most desirable, but the completion of such a task is a long way off.

One of the most diligent and capable students in the Algonquian geographic nomenclature is Mr. William Wallace Tooker. His latest publication on the subject is in the January number of the *Publications of the Rhode Island Historical Society* (Vol. V., No. 4). Its title is 'Indian Geographic Names, and why we should study them;