DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TELEPATHIC QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: When a scientific discussion degenerates into protest and imputation of motive it is probably time for the discusion to stop. But I wish to state, in self-defence, that I do not 'seek to leave upon the reader's mind' the two impressions to which Professor James refers. I do not say that Lehmann first considered whispering; I say that he was the first *thoroughly to investigate* it. There is a difference. I do not imply that Lehmann introduced number-habits; I say that the next step in advance beyond him is an exhaustive study of number habits. Again, there is a difference.

E. B. TITCHENER.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

CLIMATIC CHANGES ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

IN the *National Geographic Magazine* for May the question of climatic changes on the Pacific coast is discussed by J. B. Leiberg, under the title: '*Is Climatic Aridity impending on the Pacific Slope? The Testimony of the Forest.*' The most important results of the study are as follows: The arid, non-forested plains of eastern Oregon yield silicified remains of arborescent vegetation nearly or quite identical with existing species on adjacent areas, thus proving the presence of forest growth on these timberless lands at no very remote period. On the semi-arid tracts the forest, although consisting of species capable of enduring dry climatic conditions, show everywhere a persistent and gradual dwindling in extent and density. In the subhumid forest there is a slow and apparently ineffectual adaptative evolution of smaller forms of the various species to replace the larger ones which require more moisture for their growth. In the humid forest the same phenomena are found. So far as the evidence derived from a study of the forest conditions is concerned, there seems to be a fairly well defined change of climate in progress on our Pacific coast, from a more humid to a less humid.

In the same number of the *National Geographic Magazine*, Ganett, in a paper entitled '*The Redwood Forest of the Pacific Coast*,' states that "everything appears to indicate that for some reason, probably a progressive drying of the climate, the present environment is not favorable to the growth of redwood, and that with the clearing away of the present forests the end of the species as a source of lumber will be at hand."

WAVE CLOUDS.

THE formation of waves between different strata of the atmosphere was carefully studied and described by von Helmholtz. These waves become visible only when clouds are formed in them at those points where condensation takes place, but undoubtedly invisible waves occur very commonly in our atmosphere. The appearance of clouds in parallel lines across the sky is an indication of the presence of atmospheric waves. In the Februry number of the *Monthly Weather Review*, A. J. Henry, of the U. S. Weather Bureau at Washington, presents five excellent views, reproduced from photographs, of alto-cumulus cloud rolls, observed at on November 23, 1898, and on January 27, 1899. The views of November 23d are especially interesting as showing the gradual dissolution of the clouds.

METEOROLOGICAL WORK IN ALASKA.

THE Central Station of the Alaskan Section of the Climate and Crop Service of the Weather Bureau has been transferred from Sitka to Eagle, on the Yukon, near the British line. The Chief of the Weather Bureau hopes, by this change, to facilitate the establishment of meteorological stations in the region of the upper Yukon, where, owing to poor facilities for communication, it was found impossible to establish such stations when the headquarters of the Service were at Sitka.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Measurement of Precipitation. C. F. MARVIN, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau. Circular E, Instrument Division. 8vo. Washington, D. C., 1899. Pp. 28.

A pamphlet of instruction for the measurement and registration of precipitation by means of the standard instruments of the Weather Bureau.

Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Weather Service, 1898. E. W.