papers. A study, entitled 'Influence de la Pression Barométrique sur l'Action chimique de la Lumière directe du Soleil,' by Dr. M. Andresen, deals briefly with the work of Bunsen and Roscoe, and other investigators, and presents results obtained by the author at the Mont Blanc Observatory. A short paper by M. and Mme. Vallot deals with 'Expériences sur la Vitesse de la Circulation de l'Eau dans les Torrents et sous les Glaciers.' The most important contribution is one by M. Vallot, entitled 'Expériences sur la Marche et les Variations de la Mer de Glace.' This is an elaborate study, setting forth the results of observations made by the author on the Mer de Glace during the nine years 1891–1899. The observations included variations in level, variations in velocity, and variations in velocity in relation to variations in level. The paper is illustrated by means of a series of 61 plates, published in Vol. V. of the *Annales*, and deserves attention on the part of all who are interested in glacial problems. These two volumes are further evidence that M. Vallot's Observatory is doing effective scientific work.

THE MOON AND THE WEATHER.

A NEW journal, *Climat*, printed in four languages under the editorship of M. Demschinsky, of Torbino, Russia, and devoted to the publication of articles on the relation of the moon and meteorological phenomena, has recently been widely advertised. So far, three numbers of this magazine have been received. M. Demschinsky published, in Nos. 1 and 2 of *Climat*, a series of curves showing the probable course of the barometer and thermometer during the month of April at a large number of stations. The only comparison of the predictions with the facts of observed weather conditions that has thus far been given publicity is discussed by Dr. H. R. Mill, in *Symons's Monthly Meteorological Magazine* for May. Dr. Mill has made a careful comparison of the predicted conditions and of the actual weather observed in the cases of Aberdeen and of Valencia. The conclusion reached is, as might have been expected, that 'practically the forecasts as a whole appear to be valueless,' so far as these two stations are concerned.

NOTES.

IN the *National Geographic Magazine* for May an article by Gannett, on 'The General Geography of Alaska' (pp. 180-196), gives a good general account of the climate of that territory. This article forms one of the chapters of the volume dealing with the Harriman Expedition. The writer is inclined to believe "that if any part of Alaska can become of agricultural importance it is the interior rather than the Pacific coast. But it is doubtful whether even this region will admit of profitable farming. * * * However, as the higher rate of freight to the interior will have the effect of a protective tariff on home products, it may be possible to raise grain and vegetables at a profit under conditions which would be prohibitory on the coast."

The *Meteorological Observations for 1900*, as contained in the 13th Annual Report of the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, at Fort Collins, Colo., show that the mean annual evaporation at that station is 41.16 inches (10 years). This is the amount evaporated from a water surface in a tank 3 x 3 x 3 feet, flush with the ground.

Part VII. of the *Report of the Chief of the Weather Bureau for 1899–1900* contains the 'Meteorological Observations of the Second Wellman Expedition,' by Evelyn B. Baldwin, the leader of the present Baldwin-Ziegler Expedition.

R. DEC. WARD.

SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces that it is desired to establish an eligible register for the position of laboratory assistant in physics, National Bureau of Standards, Treasury Department. It will not be necessary for applicants to appear at any place for examination. The examination will consist of the following subjects:

Education and training	30
Original investigations	30
Experience	20
Thesis	20
Total	100

From the eligibles resulting from this examination it is expected that certification will

be made to two positions as laboratory assistant in physics, National Bureau of Standards, Treasury Department, one at a salary of $1,200 and the other at a salary of $1,400 per annum.

On the same day an examination, which also will not require attendance, will be held for two assistant agrostologists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, with salaries respectively of $1,600 and $1,400 per annum. The Department states that the positions for which this examination is held require thorough training and practical experience in subjects pertaining to grasses and forage plants and animal foods, and the management of grass lands and forage crops in the field. The subjects and weights are:

Training and experience with special reference to:	
(*a*) Theory and practice in agriculture	25
(*b*) Teaching or scientific research	10
(*c*) Publications and editorial work	15
	50
Thesis	30
Plan (to be devised by the applicant) for experiments to solve any forage problem	20
Total	100

On the same day there will, further, be an examination, not requiring attendance, for the position of scientific aid with a knowledge of statistics in the Department of Agriculture.

This examination will consist of the following subjects:

College course (with bachelor's degree) or its equivalent	40
Post-graduate work and special qualifications	30
Thesis or other literature	30
	100

Applications will not be received from other than graduates of colleges receiving benefits from grants of land or money from the United States, unless it is shown that the applicants have pursued courses of instruction having an economic bearing which will qualifiy them for the work of the Department of Agriculture. Applicants must show the scope of the studies pursued and the length of time devoted to them, the standing in such studies, especially with regard to the subject of statistics, and the special qualifications which they have for work upon this subject. They must also submit a thesis upon the subjects of statistics, or in lieu thereof such other literature on the subject as may have been published over their own signature. The salary of the position is $40 per month and no person will be permitted to serve as a scientific aid for more than two years. Scientific aids who pass in an open competitive supplementary examination in some technical or scientific subject or subjects which may be held will be eligible to certification from such supplementary register to higher positions within the classified service, regardless of their services as scientific aids.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

SECTION A. MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY.

THE officers of the section, Professor James McMahon, chairman, and Professor George A. Miller, secretary, have received the following titles for presentation at the Denver meeting. They have not, however, yet been approved by the Sectional Committee:

'A Summary of the Salient Effects due to the Secular Cooling of the Earth': Professor R. S. WOODWARD, Columbia University.

'The Energy of Condensation of Stellar Bodies': Professor R. S. WOODWARD.

'Supplementary Report on Non-Euclidean Geometry': Professor GEORGE BRUCE HALSTED, University of Texas.

'On the Application of the Fundamental Laws of Algebra to Infinite Series': Professor FLORIAN CAJORI, Colorado College.

'Conditionally Convergent Series whose Product is Absolutely Convergent': Professor FLORIAN CAJORI.

'Report on Continuous groups': Professor H. B. NEWSON, Kansas University.

'The Great Meteor of December 7, 1900': Professor H. A. HOWE, University of Denver.

'Note on a Direct Solution of Kepler's Problem': Professor H. A. HOWE.

'The Next Appearance of Eros': Professor H. A. HOWE.

'On Systems of Isothermal Curves': Professor L. E. DICKSON, University of Chicago.

'On the Modular Function Associated with the Irrationality $s^3 = z(z-1)(z-x)(z-y)$': Dr. J. I. HUTCHINSON, Cornell University.

'The Physical Bases of Long-Range Seasonal Forecasts': Professor CLEVELAND ABBE, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Weather Bureau.