

amount of ground, with the result that most subjects are treated very superficially. There are also a great many inaccuracies. The chapters on weather maps and on weather forecasting are on the whole the best. In no way does 'The Weather' rank with the meteorologies of Hann, Davis, Angot, van Bebbler, Mohn, Waldo and others.

## NOTES.

THERE has recently been published a 'Catalog der in Norwegen bis Juni 1878 beobachteten Nordlichter, zusammengestellt von Sophus Tromholt' (Christiania, 1902. 4to, pp. 422). This catalogue was prepared for publication by J. Fr. Schroeter, of the University Observatory, Christiania, Tromholt having died on April 17, 1896.

THE volume on Meteorology of the 'International Catalogue of Scientific Literature,' published for the International Council of the Royal Society, is now on sale. It numbers about 200 pages, and costs 15 shillings.

R. DE C. WARD.

## GENERAL JAMES T. STRATTON.

AFTER fifty years of professional activity in California, General James T. Stratton, the well-known surveyor, died at his home in Oakland on March 15. General Stratton was born in the state of New York in 1830, and came to California in 1850. After mining for a few years he resumed his professional work in 1853 and made the first official survey of the Alameda Encinal, at that time an uninhabited region. In 1858 he was elected county surveyor of Alameda County and was subsequently identified with the surveys of the large land grants made by the Spanish and Mexican authorities; through the knowledge acquired in this connection, he became a recognized expert on such land grants, their titles and boundary lines. He subdivided more of these, in many cases, immense areas, than any other surveyor in California. He also made the first survey for a railway out of Oakland by the way of Niles and the Livermore Pass to Stockton; these surveys extended to Folsom, Placerville being the objective point.

This work was done for an English syndicate; the project was, however, abandoned because of the civil war. Later the rails were laid on these lines by Stanford and his associates, as the Western Pacific Railroad Company, later merged into the Central Pacific Railroad Company.

In 1873 he was appointed United States Surveyor General for California by President Grant, resigning in 1876 on account of ill health. From 1880 to 1883 he was connected with the State survey general's office, and from the latter date was engaged as a land attorney till 1899. To General Stratton belongs the credit of being the first to make an artificial forest west of the Rocky Mountains, he having in 1869 planted some forty-five acres with Eucalyptus trees of the species *E. globulus* and *E. viminalis*. He was a public-spirited citizen and quiet, unassuming gentleman.

ROBT E. C. STEARNS.

LOS ANGELES,

April 24, 1903.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has offered to give \$1,000,000 for a building for the engineering societies. It is to be situated in New York City, and will provide an auditorium, a library and headquarters for five engineering societies, namely, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Electrical Engineers, the American Institute of Mining Engineers and the Engineers' Club.

FINAL contracts have been signed for the purchase from the Schermerhorn estate of the site in New York City for the Rockefeller Institute. The property acquired extends from Sixty-fourth street to a line 50 feet north of Sixty-seventh street from Avenue A to the East River. The price was about \$700,000. The work of construction on the main building will begin about August 1.

By vote of its council the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America will hold its next meeting in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at St. Louis during convocation week, 1903-1904.