

ducive to ideal research, and the records made are not entirely satisfactory for purposes of comparative anthropometry. For example, among those measured by Du Chaillu there was only one adult male, and he was mentioned only as a 'young man,' a term somewhat indefinite. Other observers did not specify the approximate age, while others did not mention the number given. This list has been compiled from the writings of the authors themselves.

In the writer's first description of these people in 1897, there occurs a mistake made in the conversion of the metric system to English measure. The average of all the observations is four feet eight and two ninths inches, about one foot shorter than the height of the average normal man.

S. P. VERNER.

ST. LOUIS,

September 12, 1904.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

THE TEACHING OF METEOROLOGY.

IN connection with the third convention of weather bureau officials, held at Peoria, Ill., September 20-22, a circular was sent out in June to all persons who were believed to be engaged or interested in the teaching of meteorology in universities and other institutions of learning. The object of this inquiry was to obtain information regarding the number and character of courses that are now given; the demand for such courses; the didactic value of meteorology as a course of mental training, and the commercial or pecuniary value of meteorology as a professional career. The replies to this circular have been printed by the weather bureau, and are not encouraging. The state of things as evidenced by the replies received from teachers and others in all parts of the country may be briefly summarized as follows: At several of the universities and colleges courses in elementary meteorology are given, usually by instructors whose main business is along other lines of work. In some cases such courses have been given and then discontinued. Weather bureau officials in many places are doing their best, in a most praiseworthy manner, to stimulate interest in the study. Scattering schools, here

and there, where the physiography teachers have a special interest in meteorology, pay some attention to systematic work in the subject. But as a whole, there is a very evident lack of proper instruction in meteorology in the country as a whole, from schools to universities. There is but one university (Harvard) where meteorology may be taken as a subject for admission.

WEATHER FORECASTS FROM THE HUMMING OF WIRES.

F. BOCK, of Babenhausen (Hesse), has for some time been carrying on observations of the humming of telegraph and telephone wires. As a result of this study, he has been able to lay down certain rules for forecasting coming weather conditions. These rules, set forth in *Das Wetter* for August, make it possible to forecast the local weather conditions for the current and the succeeding days. The observations of the humming should be made two or three times daily, preferably at about 11 A.M. and 6 P.M., and if the official forecast for the general district in which the station is situated is taken as an additional help, the local forecasts based on the humming have been found to be very successful.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

IN the *Monthly Weather Review* for June (dated August 19) Professor F. H. Bigelow continues his 'Studies on the General Circulation of the Atmosphere of the Sun and of the Earth' in a contribution (No. VII.) entitled 'The Average Monthly Vectors of the General Circulation in the United States.' Dr. W. N. Shaw's paper 'On the General Circulation of the Atmosphere in Middle and Higher Latitudes,' read June 2 before the Royal Society, is reprinted. Gen. H. L. Abbot, U. S. A., discusses 'Hourly Climatic Records on the Isthmus of Panama.' Father Algué, in charge of the Philippine Weather Bureau station at the World's Fair, describes 'The First Electric Storm Recorded Automatically in St. Louis, Mo.' Professor Abbe considers 'Temperatures in the Upper Atmosphere,' 'Auroras and Thunderstorms,' 'Meteorology in Austria'

and 'Meteorology in the Colleges and Universities.'

INDIAN METEOROLOGY.

THE opening address in the subsection on cosmical physics at the recent British Association meeting in Cambridge was by Sir John Eliot, late meteorological reporter to the government of India. Sir John Eliot's address is published in full in *Nature* for August 25, and deals with Indian meteorology in relation to the general meteorology of the Indo-oceanic region, and with the abnormal features of the meteorology of that area for the unique period 1892-1902. It also suggests a coordination of the meteorological observations of the British Empire, and the creation of a central office for the investigation of problems of general meteorology.

R. DEC. WARD.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE last issue of the program of the International Congress of Arts and Science publishes the names of 301 speakers, of whom 64 are not teachers in universities or other institutions of learning, the rest being distributed as follows, only those universities represented by three or more being given:

- 23: Columbia.
- 22: Chicago.
- 21: Harvard.
- 11: California.
- 10: Berlin, Paris, Yale.
- 8: Cornell.
- 7: Johns Hopkins.
- 6: Vienna.
- 5: Cambridge, Wisconsin.
- 4: Heidelberg, Leipzig, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Michigan, Nebraska.
- 3: McGill, Tokio.

Fifty-seven institutions were represented by one or two speakers.

PROFESSOR ROBERT KOCH has recently returned from Detmond, where he was engaged in investigating an outbreak of typhoid fever for the German government, and has since been at Paris, where he was entertained by the Pasteur Institute. In the course of the winter he will proceed to German East

Africa in order to continue those studies of tropical and other diseases which he had not completed during his recent visit to Rhodesia. In particular he will continue to investigate the part played by ticks in conveying the infection of various cattle diseases.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY was entertained by the Physical Science Department of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences at a banquet in Union League Club, on the evening of October 24. On the morning of the same day he spoke to the students of the College of Arts and Engineering of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

DR. JAMES WARD, professor of moral philosophy and logic, at Cambridge University, who gave a course of lectures at the University of California and one of the addresses at the International Congress of Arts and Science, has returned to England after giving addresses and being entertained at Princeton, Johns Hopkins, Wesleyan, Cornell and Columbia Universities.

COURSES of Lowell lectures are being given by Principal C. Lloyd Morgan, of University College, Bristol, on 'The Interpretation of Nature,' and by Dr. Pierre Janet, of the Collège de France, on 'Hypnotism and Allied Phenomena.'

DR. EWALD HERING, professor of physiology at the German University of Prague, has recently celebrated his seventieth birthday.

PROFESSOR I. C. RUSSELL, of the University of Michigan, has been engaged the past summer in examining the surface geology of the Northern part of Lake Michigan.

MR. G. V. NASH, of the New York Botanical Garden, accompanied by Mr. Taylor, sailed from New York to Inagua, on October 5, for the purpose of continuing the work on the flora of the Bahamas. Dr. H. H. Rusby returned from Kew in September, having spent several weeks at work in the herbarium of that institution and in the British Museum, making investigations on the flora of Colombia, South America. Dr. M. A. Howe has also returned from an extensive tour among European herbaria. Visits were made to the herbaria at Kew, British Museum, Lund,