selves with all previous literature on the same subjects; but notwithstanding the elaborate bibliographies now so commonly appended to papers on special topics, the crediting and utilization of the more remote publications seems in danger of falling into innocuous desuetude.

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University of California,
December, 1906.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

BLUE HILL OBSERVATORY.

Vol. LVIII., Part II., of the *Annals of the Harvard College Observatory* contains 'Observations and Investigations made at the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory in the Years 1903 and 1904.' From the introduction we learn that Mr. H. H. Clayton, well known as one of the foremost meteorological investigators in the world, has completed twenty years of service at Blue Hill, and that Mr. S. P. Fergusson, who, by his skill as a mechanician and his general ability along many lines of meteorological inquiry has contributed largely to the success of the Blue Hill work, has completed eighteen years of service. The introduction also contains a review of the principal work done at Blue Hill in the twenty years since its opening, but as readers of Science are familiar with much of this, we do not summarize here. Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch, the founder of the observatory, without whose untiring devotion to his science and unfailing readiness to assume the increasing financial burden of maintaining this institution the United States would occupy a far less prominent place in meteorological advancement, may well look back on the past twenty years of work at Blue Hill with pride and satisfaction. American men of science can have but one hope and wish in connection with the Blue Hill Observatory: that its next twenty years may be as fruitful in results as the last twenty have been.

THUNDER-STORMS AND THE MOON.

Much time has been spent by various investigators in the attempt to show some relation between the occurrence of thunder-storms and the phases of the moon. The latest contribution to this discussion comes from C. W. Hissink, of Zutphen, who in the September number of 'Hemel en Dampkring' presents the results of a study of thunderstorm days in Holland for the period 1883–1903. The means for these years show so complete an agreement for different phases of the moon that there can be no question that no lunar influence is shown. Evidently the supposed connection between moon and thunder-storms depends for the results obtained upon the period which any investigator uses, and upon the length of the series of observations. When a long series of observations is available, no lunar influence is, on the whole, manifest.

LANTERN SLIDES ILLUSTRATING CLIMATE.

We note the publication, by the Diagram Company, of New Malden, Surrey, England, of the seventh issue of 'The Diagram Series,' designed by B. B. Dickinson, assistant master at Rugby, and A. W. Andrews, extension lecturer. This series comprises a considerable number of lantern slides illustrating the climate of the world as a whole, and of the separate continents. Among these we observe charts of isotherms, isobars, winds, ocean currents and rainfall. It is encouraging to see the rapid increase in the demand for such teaching materials in meteorology and climatology for use in colleges and schools.

R. DeC. Ward.

NOTES ON ENTOMOLOGY.

A most interesting and attractive paper is that of Arnold Pictet,[1] on the influence of food and humidity on Lepidoptera. A great number of experiments were made by the author on the larvæ of twenty-one different species of Lepidoptera, among them the gipsy and brown-tail moths. His results show that changing the usual food is apt to cause variation in adults. A food difficult of assimilation hinders the growth of the caterpillar and lengthens larval life; in consequence the pupal

[1] 'Influence de l'alimentation et de l'humidité sur la variation des papillons,' *Mém. Soc. Physique et d'Hist. Nat. de Geneve*, Vol. **35**, pp. 45–127, 4 pl., 1905.