

## MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW

THE October, 1906, number of the *Monthly Weather Review* (dated Jan. 4, 1907) contains the following papers of general interest: 'A Rare Cumulus Cloud of Lenticular Shape,' by H. H. Clayton; illustrated by three half-tone views, and accompanied by comments on similar clouds by Professor Abbe. 'Monthly Review of the Progress of Climatology throughout the World,' by C. F. Talman; notes on meteorological stations in Iceland, and on the climates of British East Africa, the Solomon Islands and of Sistan. 'Sonora Storms and Sonora Clouds of California,' by Archibald Campbell, with a weather map showing the conditions which prevail during a Sonora cloud period, and a half-tone picture of one of these clouds. 'Has the Gulf Stream any Influence on the Weather of New York City?' by James Page, of the Weather Bureau. This is a brief discussion which we hope may find its way very generally into the daily press, and set right the many erroneous ideas which are prevalent on this question. Professor F. H. Bigelow continues his study of the meteorological conditions of the Cottage City waterspout of 1896 with a highly mathematical paper.

## ALTITUDE AND PNEUMONIA

DR. ISAAC W. BREWER, of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., after studying the medical statistics of the army concludes (1) that altitude has nothing to do with the mortality from lobar pneumonia; (2) that latitude within the range afforded by the territory of the United States has nothing to do with the mortality; (3) that the mortality among the colored troops is about twice as great as among the white soldiers (*So. Cal. Practitioner*, Dec., 1906).

## THE FRENCH SAHARA

THE meteorological observations made in the French Sahara by the *Mission Saharienne* (*Mission Foureaux-Lamy d'Alger au Congo par le Tchad*, Pts. I. and II., pp. 551, Paris, Masson) are welcome as throwing light on the climate of a region concerning which but little is known. The temperature fell below freezing twenty-five times. The maximum was 119°.

The minimum temperature was recorded about 5 A.M.; the maximum between 1 and 2 P.M. Dew was observed on fourteen occasions. There was rain on 116 days (out of 645). In the Air highlands thunder and lightning were noted almost every afternoon.

R. DE C. WARD

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

## WILLIAM WELLS NEWELL

William Wells Newell, the founder of the American Folk-Lore Society, died at his summer home in Wayland on January 21st, 1907, at the age of sixty-eight.

The broad culture of Mr. Newell and his extended interest in many branches of literature and science made his name known throughout the country. Those best acquainted with him were often amazed at the accurate knowledge and the sincere appreciation of subjects widely diverse in interest. He was especially gifted as a student of folklore and comparative literature and as a classical scholar, a linguist and a craftsman. Mr. Newell made a special study of the Arthurian myth and his collection of tales, 'King Arthur and the Round Table,' published in 1897, showed deep research and an intimate knowledge of the literature of the time. His translation of Sophocles's 'Œdipus Tyrannus' reveal him as a student of the classics. 'Words for Music,' a little volume of verse, most of which was original, contains charming bits of a more or less personal nature which show Mr. Newell as his intimate friends knew him, lovable, kindly and appreciative of all that was good. The book itself is an example of Mr. Newell's abilities as a craftsman. It was printed upon his private press at Hazelbrook, Wayland, and is an example of typographical excellency.

It is, however, the cause of American Folk-Lore that has suffered most in the death of Mr. Newell. It has lost its most enthusiastic worker and devoted friend. The American Folk-Lore Society was his from the very beginning, and it was owing to his untiring energies that the *Journal of American Folk-Lore* was started and has since been successfully carried on.

His death has left a void in the lives of many and has deprived the cause of culture of a strong supporter. A. M. T.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

By the will of M. Daniel Osiris, the Pasteur Institute of Paris receives an additional endowment of \$5,000,000. It is said that the institute will establish branches for scientific research in various places in France and the French colonies.

THE Berlin Academy of Sciences has elected to membership Dr. Johannes Orth, professor of pathological anatomy; Dr. Max Rubner, professor of hygiene, and Dr. Albrecht Penck, professor of geography, all of the University of Berlin.

As has been already announced, the buildings of the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburg, will be dedicated on April 11, 12 and 13. A number of distinguished foreigners will be present, including among men of science: Sir Robert Ball, professor of astronomy, Cambridge University; Mr. Guglielmo Marconi; Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, secretary of the London Zoological Society; Sir William Henry Preece, electrical engineer; Sir William Turner, principal of Edinburgh University; M. Marcellin Boule, director of the Paris Museum of Natural History, and Professor Friedrich S. Archenhold, director of the Treptow Observatory.

SIR CHARLES TODD, F.R.S., director of the Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory of South Australia, has retired, having reached the age of eighty years. He was, until last year, also postmaster general and superintendent of telegraphs. Sir Charles is succeeded in the directorship of the observatory by Mr. F. Griffith.

At a meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Medicine, held in Lincoln on January 10, a committee of five, consisting of Drs. Solon R. Towne, Alexander S. von Mansfelde, Henry B. Ward, Robert H. Wolcott and H. Winnett Orr, was appointed to make an effort to obtain the Nobel prize for Dr. James Carroll, U. S. Army.

DR. N. L. BRITTON, director of the New York Botanical Garden, accompanied by Mrs. Britton and Dr. Charles F. Millspaugh, curator of botany in the Field Museum of Natural History, have gone to Nassau, where a schooner will be chartered for a cruise among the smaller islands of the Bahamian group. This is Dr. Britton's fourth trip to the Bahamas, and it is understood that a volume on their flora will be published by him in connection with Dr. Millspaugh.

At the Leicester meeting of the British Association the evening lectures will be by Mr. W. Duddell, on 'The Arc and the Spark in Radio-telegraphy,' and by Dr. F. A. Dixey, on 'Recent Developments in the Theory of Mimicry.' The lecture to the operative classes will be given by Professor H. A. Miers, F.R.S., on 'The Growth of a Crystal.'

LORD AVEBURY has been elected president of the Royal Microscopical Society.

At the annual meeting of the London Entomological Society, on January 23, the retiring president, Mr. F. Merrifield, made the address. Mr. C. O. Waterhouse was elected president for the ensuing year.

PROFESSOR A. LAWRENCE LOWELL, who holds the chair of the science of government at Harvard University, has been selected to be the special Harvard lecturer at Yale University for 1907. This lectureship, as will be remembered, was founded in 1905 by the gift of \$10,000 from an anonymous Harvard graduate; the income of the fund to be used in securing members of the Harvard faculty to give lectures at Yale.

DR. DAVID P. BARROWS, director of the Bureau of Education of the Philippine Islands, gave a lecture on 'Mohammedanism in the Philippine Islands' before the California branch of the American Folk-lore Society on February 7.

THE ninth lecture in the Harvey Society Course will be delivered by Professor W. T. Councilman, professor of pathology, Harvard University, at the New York Academy of Medicine, on Saturday, February 23 at 8:30 P.M. Subject: 'The Relation of Certain