

RAIN-MAKING AGAIN

THE compiler of these notes has been requested to act as a director in the "Continental Rain-making Co.," which is to be incorporated in Arizona. From the circulars sent out by the Chief Rain-maker we learn that he "will not be responsible for any storm, flood, or any excesses of nature whatever." "Reliable agents wanted to take up subscriptions in dry sections." "Favorable scientific press comments solicited; unfavorable not wanted." Can not the mails be closed against such swindling schemes as this?

MOON AND CLOUDS

THE old question of the supposed influence of the moon in causing a decrease in the amount of cloud has again been investigated, this time by Otto Meissner (*Met. Zeitschr.*, May, 1907). It appears that this supposed cloud-dispelling effect does not exist. Clouds frequently disappear in the evening. When there is a moon, especially a full moon, the clouds can be much more easily seen, and their disappearance makes much more impression than on a dark night.

CLIMATE OF VICTORIA, B. C.

THE May, 1907, number of the *National Geographic Magazine* contains a short article on "Factors which Modify the Climate of Victoria," by A. W. McCurdy. The insular position; the proximity of the warm Pacific; the prevailing westerly winds; the local topography and the small precipitation, permitting abundant sunshine throughout the year, are enumerated as the most important climatic controls. Victoria shares with other places along the Pacific coast of North America the advantage of mild winters and moderately cool summers, and it has the additional advantage of being so situated that its rainfall is much less than that of more exposed stations.

SONNBlick VEREIN

THE Fifteenth Annual Report of the Sonnblick Verein, for 1906, is one of unusual value. It contains a presidential address by Dr. Hann on the present aims of meteorological in-

vestigation; an appreciative review, by A. von Obermeyer, of the twenty years of meteorological work at Ben Nevis Observatory, with illustrations, and a discussion, by Dr. Hann, of the results of the meteorological observations on the Sonnblick during the past twenty years. The frontispiece is an excellent engraving of Dr. Hann.

NOTES

"DER Meteorologische Aequator im Stillen Ozean" (*Archiv. deutsch. Seewarte*, XXIX., 1906, No. 1) is the title of a very thorough investigation, by R. Westermann, of the conditions of temperature, pressure, rainfall, cloudiness, winds, humidity and ocean currents along the meteorological equator in the Pacific Ocean.

Vol. LXXX. of the *Denkschriften* of the Vienna Academy of Sciences (*math.-naturwiss. Kl.*) contains a second instalment of Hann's discussion of the daily march of temperature in the tropics. A former publication dealt with the inner portion of the tropical zone; the present one concerns the outer portion (*A. Das amerikanische und afrikanische Tropengebiet*).

An historical review of our knowledge of land and sea breezes, and a presentation of existing theories regarding these winds, has been published in several recent numbers of *Das Wetter*. The final instalment appears in the issue for May, 1907.

R. DEC. WARD

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. G. W. HILL, of Nyack, N. Y.; M. Camille Jordan, of Paris, and Drs. Guido Castelnuovo and Vito Volterra, of Rome, have been elected honorary members of the London Mathematical Society.

THE University of the South has conferred the degree of D.C.L. on President Ira Remsen, of the Johns Hopkins University.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of LL.D. upon Nicholas Murray

Butler, Ph.D., president of Columbia University.

DR. PHILIP HENRY PYE-SMITH, F.R.S., of London, known for his researches in anatomy and physiology, has been given an honorary doctorate of medicine at the University of Dublin.

THE Norwegian Storting has voted the sum of 40,000 Kroner to Mr. Roald Amundsen in recognition of his services to science in traversing the northwest passage and relocating the magnetic North Pole.

DR. OTTO ZACHARIAS, director of the Biological Station at Plon, and Dr. C. G. Schillings, the African traveler, have been given the title of professor by the German government.

THE Nettleship gold medal of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom has been awarded to Dr. J. Herbert Parsons, for his work on "The Pathology of the Eye."

THE Royal Academy of Sciences, Berlin, has elected James Henry Breasted, professor of Egyptology and Oriental history at the University of Chicago, a corresponding member.

WE learn from *Terrestrial Magnetism* that Dr. Doberck, having reached the age limit for colonial service, will retire from the directorship of the Hongkong Observatory next September and will be succeeded by Mr. F. G. Figg.

Nature states that the vacancy in the tidal and optical departments of the National Physical Laboratory, occasioned by the appointment of Mr. J. de Graaf Hunter to the post of mathematical expert on the Indian Survey, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. T. Smith, formerly scholar of Queens' College, Cambridge.

DR. HERMANN MUNK, professor of physiology in the veterinary school of Berlin, has retired from active service.

WITH the death of Professor James M. Safford, formerly state geologist of Tennessee, and the decease within the present year of Professor E. T. Cox and Dr. Carl Rominger, Dr. Charles A. White becomes the oldest liv-

ing geologist of North America. Dr. White is now in his eighty-second year, and is still engaged in scientific work, his latest article being a historical one, on the "Archaic Monetary Terms of the United States," published by the Smithsonian Institution.

ACCORDING to *Nature*, those who have accepted invitations to be present at the Leicester meeting of the British Association, which opens next week, are as follows: Section A: Professors L. Natanson, D. J. Kortéweg, H. G. van de Sande Bakhuyzen, Dr. Oskar Backlund, Professor Donner, M. Ch. Féry; Section B: Professors R. Abegg, A. Tschitschibabin, T. W. Richards, A. Werner, F. M. Jaeger; Section C: Professors H. Sjögren, F. Frech, C. Diener, J. P. Iddings; Section D: Professor H. Simroth; Section E: Professors P. Vidal de la Blache, Max Eckert; Section H: Professor E. Naville; Section I: Professor N. Zuntz; Section K: Professors J. P. Lotsy, R. Chodat, H. Conwentz, O. Uhlworm; Section L: Dr. Otto Anderssen, Dr. F. Rönning, Professor M. L. Morel. Corresponding members, Baron D. Kikuchi, Professors P. H. Schoute, R. Nasini and George F. Barker have also expressed their intention of being present.

PROFESSOR E. W. D. HOLWAY and Mr. F. K. BUTTERS, of the University of Minnesota, are spending the summer in the Canadian Rocky Mountains and the Selkirk Mountains, collecting botanical specimens, especially the rusts (*Uredineæ*) and other fungi.

IN connection with the cooperative investigations of the Atlantic Coastal Plain stratigraphy, Dr. H. B. Kummel, state geologist of New Jersey, and Mr. M. L. Fuller, supervising geologist of the investigations for the United States Geological Survey, have taken the field for the purpose of reviewing the Cretaceous, Tertiary, and Pleistocene succession in New Jersey.

THE following course of public lectures is being given in connection with the summer session of Cornell University. The general topic treated is Public Health and Preventive Medicine:

July 8—"The Contribution of Biology to Improved Conditions of Life," Professor Simon H. Gage.

July 15—"The Nature of Infectious Disease," Professor Veranus A. Moore.

July 22—"Tuberculosis," Professor Veranus A. Moore.

July 29—"The Duty of the Teacher in Prevention of Disease," Professor Veranus A. Moore.

August 5—"The Preservation and Purification of Public Water Supplies," Professor Emile M. Chamot.

A COMMITTEE of which M. Emile Loubet, ex-president of the French republic, is chairman, has been formed for the erection of a monument to the late Professor Brouardel. The artist selected for the execution of the work is M. Denys Puech.

DR. WILLIAM L. RALPH, the well-known oologist, died on July 8, at Washington, D. C., in his fifty-seventh year. He was for many years an enthusiastic collector, and early made the acquaintance of Major Bendire, who was then the foremost authority on the subject in this country. On the death of the latter, in 1897, he became curator of the Section of Bird's eggs, in the U. S. National Museum, which post he retained until his decease. His collection, numbering some 10,000 specimens, including many rarities, was deposited in the National Museum several years ago.

SIR WILLIAM HENRY BROADBENT, Bart., F.R.S., a leading London physician, died on July 10 at the age of seventy-two years.

PROFESSOR SIEGFRIED CZAPSKI, director of the Zeiss Optical works at Jena, died on June 29, aged forty-six years.

THE Institution of Mechanical Engineers will hold its summer meeting at Aberdeen from Tuesday, July 30, to Friday, August 2.

THE Royal Society of Medicine, composed by a union of medical societies in London, has received a royal charter. The society begins with a membership of 4,000 and an income of \$40,000. Sir William Church has been elected the first president.

THE thirty-sixth annual meeting of l'Association française pour l'Avancement des Sciences will be held in Rheims on August 1-6,

under the presidency of Dr. Henrot, honorary director of l'Ecole de Médecine at Rheims. The presidents of the sections are: Sections 1 and 2 (Mathematics, Astronomy, Geodesy and Mechanics), Professor C. Bourlet; Sections 3 and 4 (Navigation and Civil and Military Engineering), M. Bourguin; Section 5 (Physics), Professor Blondin; Section 6 (Chemistry), Professor Hugounenq; Section 7 (Meteorology), M. Luizet; Section 8 (Geology and Mineralogy), M. Peron; Section 9 (Botany), Professor Lecomte; Section 10 (Zoology, Anatomy and Physiology), Professor Caullery; Section 11 (Anthropology), Dr. Guelliot; Section 12 (Medical Science), Professor Landouzy; Section 13 (Medical Electricity), Professor Guilloz; Section 14 (Odontology), M. Francis Jean; Section 15 (Agronomy), M. Armand Walfard; Section 16 (Geography), M. Richard; Section 17 (Political Economy and Statistics), Dr. Papillon; Section 18 (Pedagogy), Dr. Bérillon.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the American Electrochemical Society, held on June 1, Professor S. A. Tucker, Mr. F. J. Tone and Mr. F. A. J. Fitzgerald were elected to fill the vacancies on the board caused by the election of Mr. C. F. Burgess to the presidency and of Professor Jos. W. Richards to the secretaryship, and the resignation of Colonel Samuel Reber, vice-president, owing to his transference to Manila. Dr. Harrison E. Patten was appointed chairman of the committee on papers. The following were elected as an executive committee: C. F. Burgess, Chas. A. Doremus, Carl Hering, J. W. Richards, E. F. Roeber, S. S. Sadtler, S. A. Tucker.

THE American School Hygiene Association has appointed as delegates to represent at the second International Congress of School Hygiene, to be held in London, from August 5 to 10 the following: Henry P. Walcott, A.B., M.D., president of American School Hygiene Association, chairman of Massachusetts State Board of Health; William Henry Burnham, Ph.D., professor of pedagogics, Clark University; Luther H. Gulick, M.D., M.P.E., director of physical training, New York City public schools; Thomas Darlington, M.D.,

commissioner of health, New York; John J. Cronin, M.D., assistant chief medical inspector, Board of Health, New York City; Robert W. Lovett, A.B., M.D., instructor in orthopedic surgery, Harvard Medical School; R. Tait McKenzie, A.B., M.D., professor and director of physical education, University of Pennsylvania; Edmund J. James, LL.D., president, University of Illinois; Champe S. Andrews, president, Public Health Defense League, New York City; Elliot G. Brackett, M.D., surgeon, orthopedic department, Massachusetts General Hospital; George H. Martin, LL.D., secretary, Massachusetts State Board of Education; Miss Evelyn Goldsmith, teacher in charge of School for Crippled Children, New York City; Miss Jessie Benton Montgomery, principal and critic of grammar department, Wisconsin State Normal School; Miss Brigham, director physical training, Wisconsin State Normal School; Miss Isabel Bevier, professor of domestic sciences, University of Illinois; Francis C. Woodman, head master, Morristown School, Morristown, N. J.; Joseph P. Chamberlain, Santa Barbara, Cal.; Anna J. McKeag, M.D., Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.; William Oldright, M.D., Toronto, Canada; F. C. Robinson, LL.D., professor of chemistry and mineralogy, Bowdoin, and member State Board of Health, Brunswick, Me. The international vice-presidents representing the American School Association are Dr. Walcott, Dr. Gulick and Dr. Lovett.

At the recent Los Angeles meeting of the National Education Association, the board of directors voted that the action of the association in 1898, accepting the simplified spelling of the "twelve words," should be rescinded, and the old spellings of these words adopted for all the association's correspondence and publications. At the final session of the association, however, by a vote of 209 to 22 the following resolution was passed:

The National Educational Association approves the efforts of the Simplified Spelling Board, and other bodies, to promote the simplification of English spelling by the judicious omission of useless silent letters, and the substitution of a more regular and intelligent spelling in place of forms that

are grossly irregular and anomalous, such amendments to be made according to the existing rules and analogies of English spelling, with a due regard to the standards accepted by scholars; and the association hereby approves the simpler forms contained in the list of three hundred words now spelled in two or more ways, published by the Simplified Spelling Board, and containing the twelve simplified forms now used by this association, and directs that those simpler forms be used in the publications of the association in accordance with the rule now in force.

PLANS for the present season's work of the Illinois Geological Survey have recently been adopted and are now being carried out. In the coal investigations Mr. David White, of the U. S. Geological Survey, is making a general investigation of the paleobotany of the coal beds. Mr. F. W. De Wolf, assisted by A. J. Ellis, is making detailed surveys in the southern part of the state and near Springfield. Dr. J. A. Udden and I. J. Broman are making detailed surveys in the area east of St. Louis. Dr. Stuart Weller is extending his systematic researches on the Mississippian stratigraphy. Mr. T. E. Savage is carrying on similar investigations of the Devonian under the direction of Dr. Schuchert. Dr. U. S. Grant, assisted by G. H. Cady, John Udden and others, is investigating the Portland cement materials of the state. E. F. Lines is to study certain clay deposits and H. F. Bain is looking up the oil fields. Professor Salisbury, assisted by Messrs. Trowbridge and Jones, is studying the physiography and Pleistocene deposits of the Wheaton and Springfield quadrangles. In the laboratory, Professor Parr and Mr. W. F. Wheeler are continuing their study of the composition of coals, while Professor Bleining will assist in the study of cement materials.

Nature states that the New Zealand government is about to undertake extensive trawling of an experimental nature. Mr. L. F. Ayson, chief inspector of fisheries, will be in charge, and Mr. Edgar R. Waite, curator of the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, has been appointed zoologist to the expedition. Collections will be made of all marine products, which will be investigated, so far as possible,

by New Zealand naturalists, and the material obtained will be the property of the Canterbury Museum. The committee for biological and hydrographical study of the New Zealand coast, appointed by the Australasian Association for Advancement of Science, will provide certain equipment for use in the deeper waters. The *Nora Nevin*, a new steam trawler just from the stocks at Grimsby, England, built to the order of the Napier (N. Z.) Fish Supply Company, has been chartered by the New Zealand government, and it is anticipated that operations will extend over a period of three months.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE town council of Aberdeen has agreed to give £15,000 towards the erection and equipment of a technical college in the city.

WE learn from the *Experiment Station Record* that at the last session of congress an appropriation of \$1,000 was made for the purpose of continuing and extending the school-garden work which has been carried on for a number of years in a cooperative way by the public schools and the Department of Agriculture. Beginning four years ago with a few gardens on the department grounds and a little improvement work around a single school, the movement has grown until this year 700 children have gardens on the department grounds, 124 school buildings in the district have gardens, and 160,000 packets of seeds have been sold for home gardens.

THE registration in the summer session of Cornell University is 745, an increase of more than 100 over last year.

PROFESSOR W. F. M. GOSS, dean of the Schools of Engineering and director of the Engineering Laboratory of Purdue University, has accepted the position of dean of the College of Engineering in the University of Illinois.

AT a special meeting of the trustees of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., on July 18, the resignation of Dr. A. V. Raymond as president was accepted, and Dr. George Alexander, pastor of the University Place Presby-

terian Church of New York, was elected temporary president in his place. Dr. Alexander is a trustee of Union College, from which he graduated in 1866.

AT the University of Virginia, members of the faculty have been elected as follows: Dr. Stephen H. Watts, of the Johns Hopkins University, to be professor of general surgery and director of the hospital; Dr. Thomas Leonard Watson, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, to be professor of economic geology, and Dr. Robert Montgomery Bird, to be collegiate professor of chemistry.

PROFESSOR J. B. JOHNSTON has resigned the professorship of zoology in the University of West Virginia to accept the position of assistant professor of anatomy of the nervous system in the department of histology and embryology, University of Minnesota.

PROFESSOR F. G. MILLER, of the chair of forestry in the University of Nebraska, has resigned in order to accept a similar position in the University of Washington. He withdraws from Nebraska on September 1, on which date his connection with the Washington University begins. His successor has already been chosen—Mr. Frank J. Phillips, of the United States Forest Service. Professor Phillips will assume his new duties on September 1, after which his address will be at Lincoln. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Forestry, and has been connected with the U. S. Forest Service for the past four years, during which he has been assigned to forest problems in many places in the western states and territories.

GEORGE D. GABLE, Ph.D., Hunt professor of mathematics and secretary of the faculty, Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa, has accepted a call to the Johnson professorship of mathematics in the University of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

DR. GEORGE DREYER, lecturer in pathology in the University of Copenhagen, has been elected professor of pathology in Oxford University.

DR. CHARLES SPEARMAN has been appointed reader in experimental psychology in University College, London.