on July 17 by Dr. Merriam. The structure was built and equipped through the cooperation of a number of educational organizations, among which were the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, the American Association of Museums and the National Academy of Sciences. Constructed of native weathered stone and logs, the station harmonizes with the landscape features and seems almost to be an integral part of the canyon walls.

The importance of establishing libraries in the national parks, both in connection with the educational work and for the use of the public generally, was established by the use of the library maintained in connection with the Yosemite Museum. Based on this, the American Association of Museums interested the American Library Association to such an extent that a committee was appointed to establish libraries in the national parks.

SERVICE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU TO AVIATION

METEOROLOGY in aid of aviation and marine meteorology—two of the many activities of the Weather Bureau of the U. S. Department of Agriculture—are discussed by Dr. C. F. Marvin, chief of the bureau, in his annual report. He says:

> Since 1926 funds have been included in the regular appropriations of the department for assigning and maintaining on duty at every important airport one or more skilled meteorologists, whose duties require them to receive from the central organization of the Weather Bureau the fullest possible advices, reports, observations, etc., including forecasts and warnings, and to pass these on to pilots of airplanes at the time of and in accordance with the flight immediately in contemplation.
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> The basis of advices and warnings to pilots is necessarily derived from the great network of meteorological stations that has been built up by the Weather Bureau throughout past years. In some cases these stations are rather widely distributed. Moreover, observations are made regularly only at 8 A. M. and 8 P. M. For the needs of aeronautics, more intensive and special stations are required, especially in certain regions. To make provisions for this 137 ground stations have been established at frequent intervals all along the airways set up by the Department of Commerce, and the whole machinery of operation is gradually being improved to make the service more and more effective.
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> There is a growing demand for four daily observations from meteorological stations over the entire globe, instead of two. The hours for these observations are quite likely to be advanced in the near future in the United States so as to occur at 1 and 7 A. M. and at 1 and 7 P. M.
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> A few years ago the entire scheme for collecting by telegraph the meteorological reports from field stations was reorganized. A new and more flexible system is now in operation.
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> In no other field has the demand for meteorological help for aviation been more pressing than in connection with transoceanic air navigation. Agreements are under way with other great maritime nations for better organizing ocean meteorological observations by the selection of a certain number of ships of each nationality which shall uniformly make and distribute radio observations twice, or perhaps four times a day while on the high seas. . . . The highest efficiency and accuracy in formulating weather forecasts and warnings is only attainable when the meteorologist has before him a complete picture of the weather conditions over the whole surface of the globe, or at least over the whole surface of the Northern or Southern Hemisphere. The development of an international meteorological oceanic service along these lines is perhaps the most urgent technical problem concerning meteorology at the present time.

EPILEPSY COMMISSION OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

A CITY-WIDE campaign against epilepsy has just been launched by the Harvard Medical School with the appointment of an Epilepsy Commission. Funds are now being collected by the commission, and research and experiment will be begun shortly at the Medical School and at various Boston hospitals in an investigation of a disease which now has 390,000 victims in the United States.

The commission, as appointed by the Corporation of Harvard University, contains the following members: Dr. Walter B. Cannon, Dr. Fritz B. Talbot, Dr. Bronson Crothers, Mr. Robert Amory, Dr. Stanley Cobb and Mr. Ralph Lowell. Mr. Charles Francis Adams is acting as treasurer for the commission in its drive for funds.

In a statement describing some of the "baffling problems" facing the commission in its campaign against epilepsy, Dr. Stanley Cobb, Bullard professor of neuropathology, writes as follows:

> This commission has been appointed to promote a continuous study of the convulsive disorders over a period of years. The term epilepsy is used for brevity, but it has been demonstrated in recent years that epilepsy is not a disease—it is a type of reaction of the human body to different abnormal stimulations; it has various causes. Thus the field of study must be broadened to include the convulsions of childhood, the eclampsia of pregnancy, uremia, asphyxia and other allied conditions. When these are all better understood there will be more chance of helping the chronic sufferer—the epileptic.
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> It is estimated that there are 390,000 epileptics in the United States. This represents an enormous amount of suffering, especially when one realizes that not only the patient suffers but the whole family, for the fear of a catastrophe is ever hanging over the household, coloring the lives of all. The common convulsions of childhood are less distressing but more common; one survey showed that 7 per cent. of children had had convulsions before