

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

AN exhibition arranged by the Royal Meteorological Society in the Science Museum, South Kensington, was opened on January 11 by Sir Napier Shaw, formerly director of the Meteorological Office, who spoke on the progress of meteorology during the last twenty years.

According to the *London Times*, the exhibition, which was on the second floor of the museum, was especially remarkable for the display of photographs of cloud-formations taken by members of the society. While these were chosen for the scientific information which they contain, many of the effects shown being rarely observed, the technical and esthetic quality of the prints is equally noteworthy. Among the observers whose work was illustrated are Mr. E. G. Bilham, Captain C. J. P. Cave, Mr. G. A. Clarke, Mr. F. W. Baker and Mr. A. V. V. Clayden. Sir Gilbert Walker showed photographs of natural cloud-formations, with parallel photographs of the same phenomena illustrated on a smaller scale in liquids such as evaporating spirit and oil. Diagrams of typical cloud-formations were also illustrated from the new International Cloud Atlas.

A display of historical instruments was lent by the Meteorological Office, while modern instruments were illustrated through a trade exhibit by British firms and by several official exhibits on a large scale. One stand contained the constituents of a typical Air Ministry meteorological station, including a Stevenson screen with its maximum and minimum and dry and wet-bulb thermometers, a Fortin barometer with magnifying eyepieces, an Owens air-filter for measuring impurities, a stream-line wind-vane, and a range-gauge designed for mountain use, with special precautions against bursting under frost. Opposite this is to be seen a gigantic anemometer of the type used by the Air Ministry to measure the velocity of air-currents, but with its normal height of 40 ft. or 50 ft. reduced to 12 ft. to get it in the gallery.

The developments of the Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder during the half century since its invention was also demonstrated through comparative exhibits, while lightning conductors were shown in a special case, the examples including one installed by Benjamin Franklin on St. Paul's. There were also screens displaying the changes in the distribution of rainfall averages over the British Isles by week, month, year and decade. The heaviness of the annual rainfall appears to vary in a roughly triennial cycle, but it is seen that the remarkable rainfall of 1872 has not since been paralleled.

Public lectures on meteorology were given at the museum during the exhibition. The first, by Mr. D.

Brunt, described the part played by meteorology in history. Dr. G. C. Simpson, director of the Meteorological Office, explained modern weather forecasting, and Captain C. J. P. Cave and Colonel Sir Henry Lyons (director of the Science Museum), spoke respectively on clouds and on historic meteorological instruments. The exhibition remained open for one month.

THE WESTCHESTER INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES

THE committee of five, appointed at the first meeting of the Westchester Institute of Sciences on December 16, last, met on January 7 to formulate a temporary organization for the institute. The meeting was held at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research in Yonkers at the invitation of Dr. William Crocker, its director.

The committee consisted of Dr. Crocker, Professor Roy J. Colony, of Columbia University, Mr. George P. Engelhardt, entomologist and museum expert, Mr. Albert Brand, ornithologist, and Mrs. Mary Welleck Garretson, formerly supervisor of the Nature Lore Workshop, as chairman.

As a result of this meeting, it was decided to form a temporary organization until fall, with temporary officers in charge. The names of those nominated are as follows:

Chairman: Dr. H. H. Sheldon, physicist, or Dr. For-man T. MacLean, botanist.

Vice-chairmen or Advisers: Dr. William Crocker, botanist, and Professor Roy J. Colony, geologist.

Secretary: Mrs. Mary Welleck Garretson, geologist.

There are to be five program meetings on the evenings of the third Thursdays of each month beginning in January. Three of the programs are planned and will be held in various parts of the county rather than in one place.

The first meeting will be in the Eastview Avenue Junior High School, White Plains, and after a short business session and the admission of members, there will be a first showing of the motion pictures of the Graves-Thorne expedition to Alaska and northern Siberia for the Field Museum of Chicago. The talk with the pictures will be given by Mr. John Jonas, explorer-naturalist of the expedition.

The second meeting, by the kindness of Dr. Crocker, will be held at the Boyce Thompson Institute and will consist of a series of short talks illustrated by pictures or demonstrations by the research scientists of the institution. It will be a meeting of especial interest to science teachers.

The third meeting, in March, will have for its program an illustrated talk on "The Geology of West-