of the air and visibility. A Weather Bureau observer checks the accuracy of the aerometeorograph, fastens it to the airplane before each flight, makes the necessary meteorological observations at the earth's surface before and during the flight, and puts into usable form the records brought down by the aerometeorograph and the pilot.

At the eight army stations—Mitchel Field, Long Island, N. Y.; Selfridge Field, near Detroit, Mich.; Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio; Scott Field, Belleville, Ill.; Kelly Field, San Antonio, Tex.; Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Ala.; Barksdale Field, Shreveport, La., and Boston, Mass.—Air Corps pilots and planes, using Weather Bureau instruments, make the daily flights. Weather Bureau observers do the rest of the work. At the seven other stations—Lakehurst, N. J.; Anacostia, D. C.; Norfolk, Va.; Pensacola, Fla.; San Diego, Calif.; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Seattle, Wash.—the navy provides all equipment and does all the work.

A country-wide teletype and radio communication service—nearly all operated by the Bureau of Air Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce—make it possible to transmit airplane weather observations instantaneously to the stations where they are to be used. From two stations not yet on one of these circuits—Sault Sainte Marie and Maxwell Field—the observations are telegraphed to the nearest point on the teletype circuits. Observations taken at Pearl Harbor go by navy radio to San Francisco, where they are put on teletype circuits.

Airplane observation flights are made at about the same time all over the country—4:00 A. M., Eastern Standard Time, except when the weather is unfavorable, particularly when the ceiling (base of the clouds) is lower than 800 feet or when visibility is less than 2 miles. At each station the information compiled at the end of the flight is coded and sent out over a teletype or radio circuit, or first by telegraph, to the six district forecast centers and other stations of the Weather Bureau. Reaching these stations by 8:30 A. M., E. S. T., the data are plotted on various kinds of charts, which, in conjunction with charts of surface, pilot balloon and cloud observations, give the forecasters the information they need in making the daily weather forecasts.

COLLECTIONS OF WOODS OF THE WORLD AT YALE UNIVERSITY

PROGRESS in tropical forestry and the world-wide study of woods by the Yale Forest School is the subject of a report recently issued. The Yale wood collections now contain over 32,500 specimens, representing more than 10,400 named species of 2,548 genera and 225 families. The additions during the last two years alone almost equalled the total number of specimens on hand a decade ago.

The principal addition made to the collections was secured as a result of the visit of Professor Samuel J. Record to Holland. This consisted of a gift from the Commercial Museum of the Colonial Institute at Amsterdam of 2,215 Javanese wood specimens collected with herbarium material by Koorders during the years 1888–1894. This material was studied for more than 30 years by Dr. Janssonius of Holland, and the results of his work were published in six volumes. Students can now examine the actual material which is described in the text.

More attention in the future will be given to increasing the number of preparations for microscopic study. Last year, cross, radial and tangential sections of 973 specimens were added to the slide collections. These collections now contain slides of 5,235 specimens. Most of the slides have been received in exchange for wood samples, many of them coming from the Forest Research Institute, the Federated Malay States, the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford, the Biological Laboratories, Harvard, and the botanical department of the University of Michigan.

One of Professor Record's major projects has been the study of the timbers of British Honduras. The work was begun ten years ago in cooperation with the forestry department of the colony and with the Field Museum of Natural History. He collaborated in the authorship of a volume on this subject, published this year by the museum.

For the work in timber testing, it has been found advantageous to use specimens of little known but potentially important tropical trees, as the data thus obtained are contributions to science. Professor George A. Garratt has finished a paper on the trees known in British Honduras as "Waika Chewstick." It is planned to continue this work through arrangements with logging operators in tropical America.

Other activities include the building up of the herbarium, the identification of wood samples and the supplying of information to scientific men, timber dealers, wood users and to the general public.

MEETING OF THE FOUNDER SOCIETIES OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

A JOINT meeting of the American Physical Society, the Optical Society of America, the Acoustical Society of America, the Society of Rheology and the American Association of Physics Teachers will be held in New York, from October 29 to 31.

This meeting, held at the time of the fifth anniversary of the American Institute of Physics, will consist partly of the regular papers of the separate societies and partly of sessions in which all the societies