

The following is excerpted from p. 163 of the May 22 *Weekly Bulletin*:

*"Defective Thermometers.*

Rejected due to air in tube, etc.....	53
Rejected because of retreating mercury column.....	16
Rejected because of dampness in tubes.....	2
Rejected because of split bore.....	1
Rejected as "hard shakers".....	3
Rejected as requiring over 0.2 degree correction of reading....	9

"Total defective..... 84 (54%)

"Total acceptable..... 72 (46%)

"Unfortunately, the doctors and nurses for whom these thermometers were tested required them to be returned the same afternoon that we received them. No repeated readings could be had, and all tests necessary to determine the accuracy of the thermometers were not carried out in full. It is probable that some of the thermometers passed in the test would prove defective, were they subjected to all the tests which are necessary to determine a good thermometer."

In view of the large percentage of clinical thermometers which are defective, it would be of value to know something of the reliability of the ordinary commercial thermometers of various prices. Perhaps some member of the SOCIETY who has access to a large number of these of different makes will conduct a series of tests on the accuracy of their readings.

#### SOME CONTEMPORARIES.

*Ecology.*—The Ecological Society of America, which was organized four years ago, used a small bulletin of four or more pages as its medium of communication between members. The *Bulletin* was particularly devoted to announcing activities of the Society and did not contain any abstracts or notes published merely because of their general or particular interest. An extensive Handbook, giving the names and addresses of members and their ecological activities in some detail, was published early. Now it has just completed Volume 1 of its new journal, *Ecology*. The announcement of the birth of this magazine says:

The Ecological Society at its annual meeting in St. Louis on December 31, 1919, decided without dissenting voice to start its own serial publication. The *Plant World* has been generously offered to the Society free of liabilities, and will be continued as the official organ of the Society under the title of *Ecology*. The new journal will begin as an illustrated quarterly of about 200 to 300 pages per annum, containing papers by workers in all branches of ecology. The committee on arrangements for starting the new journal has chosen Barrington Moore as editor-in-chief. In order to cover the cost of this publication, it was voted that the dues be raised to \$3 per annum, the minimum amount which will cover the expenses of the Society and insure a reasonably adequate and creditable publication. Of this amount \$2 will be for subscription to the magazine, and \$1 will be for the running expenses of the Society. It is believed that the new journal will not only be of great value to the members of the Society, but will be necessary to all workers in the fields of botany, zoology, forestry, agriculture and other biological sciences.

The contributions of direct meteorological interest in Volume 1 are:

The control of pneumonia and influenza by the weather. Ellsworth Huntington. Jan., pp. 6-23, fig. (Reviewed at length in *Mo. Weather Review*, Sept. 1920. See P. 143 above.)

Evidence of climatic effects in the annual rings of trees. A. E. Douglass. Jan., pp. 24-32, 10 figs. (Presented in part at the Am. Met'l Soc. meeting, St. Louis, Dec., 1919. Brief abstract in Jan. BULLETIN, pp. 9-10.)

In the later issues are other papers of interest to the climatologist.

*The Meteorological Magazine*.—It is about a year now since the British Meteorological Office took over *Symons's Meteorological Magazine*, at the end of its 54th year and combined it with the 4-year-old *Meteorological Office Circular*. The two together became *The Meteorological Magazine* (8vo., about 20 pp. per issue, plus advertising pages). The occasion for the junction was the absorption of the previously independent British Rainfall Organization by the British Meteorological Office. *Symons's Meteorological Magazine* was the rainfall observers' medium for meteorological discussion, and it contained monthly summaries of the weather not only of the British Isles, but also throughout the British Empire. The *Meteorological Office Circular* was a leaflet by means of which the Office kept in touch with its corps of observers. It contained official announcements, useful summaries of official publications, and interesting notes contributed by various observers. The new magazine, in spite of being published officially, has lost nothing of the refreshing informality of its privately owned predecessor, *Symons's*, and has gained by the addition of the abstracts which appeared in the *Circular*. A feature of particular interest to meteorologists all over the world is the section on "Weather abroad." It so happens that *The Meteorological Magazine* reaches the editor of the *Monthly Weather Review* just in time each month for the inclusion of extracts from this section and from its summary of the British weather in the *Review's* "Notes on weather in other parts of the world."<sup>1</sup>

"*Tycos*"-Rochester is an illustrated quarterly magazine of about 25 pages (plus advertising) published by the Taylor Instrument Companies of Rochester, N. Y. The 10th volume has just been completed. As the manufacture of meteorological instruments comprises much of the work of these companies, it is not surprising to find about half of this magazine devoted to meteorological topics. The interesting reading matter for the meteorological parts of the October, 1920, number was gleaned largely from the *Scientific American* and the *Monthly Weather Review*. There are many photographs of Weather Bureau instruments in use, and especially of snow surveying.

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#### NEW BOOKS.

**The physics of the air.** W. J. HUMPHREYS. (678 pages. illustrations, index, large 8vo. The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, 1920. Price \$5.00 postpaid.)

This comprehensive book, which was mentioned briefly in the September BULLETIN, p. 92, has recently been published. It is a rational and deductive treatise on the physics of the atmosphere, to which meteorologists, geologists, physicists and aviators may well have occasion to refer often.

**Meteorology.** R. G. K. LEMPFERT. (Methuen & Co., Ltd., 36 Essex St., W. C., London, 1920. 186 p. 48 illus. 13 × 19 cm. Price 7s 6d, net.)

Mr. Lempfert, Asst. Director, British Meteorological Office, presents in very readable form, an accurate and up-to-date elementary discussion of dynamic meteorology. Although the title would lead one to expect more, the author has purposely omitted the observational and climatological aspects of meteorology and has confined himself rather closely to winds and their immediately

<sup>1</sup> The section on "Weather of the month" in the *Monthly Weather Review* now contains a monthly summary of the weather of the northern hemisphere from the Far East and the Pacific Ocean to Europe. Only Asia, the Arctic and North Africa are not covered regularly in some degree.