

floods, and cold waves. On many occasions the men remain on duty during long hours, often throughout the entire night, snatching such moments for sleep, food, and rest as may be possible. The number of personnel has always been limited and the average compensation relatively low in the Federal Service.

The report of the Chief points out that comparison of the items of total appropriation, cash withdrawal, and savings by pay cuts, vacancies unfilled, and cuts in public service have in the aggregate exceeded the actual savings effected by cuts in all classes

of public service. In a few words, by dismissals, pay cuts, furloughs, and increased work due to reduced force and unfilled vacancies, the personnel of the Weather Bureau is now bearing the brunt of more than half the economies effected in the maintenance of the service as planned for the fiscal year 1934.

The total pay and wage cuts for the present fiscal year, as estimated in the report, is given as \$394,481, which includes the 15 per cent cut in pay and wages of all Weather Bureau employees.—S. D. F.

REVIEWS IN BRIEF

By CHARLES F. BROOKS

Dr. J. McKeen Cattell, in an article "Book reviews in Science," published four years ago (*Science*, Feb. 22, 1929, pp. 220-222), points to the great difficulty in adequately reviewing current literature in a lowpriced journal of more or less popular interest. What he says applies as directly to our BULLETIN as it does to *Science*. In fact, we are in an even more difficult situation, for there is no paid editorial staff. Except for notes by our part-time editorial assistants, the BULLETIN must, therefore, be dependent on the membership of the Society for reviews of important current literature in meteorology and climatology. The BULLETIN should not even provide space for listing the publications received by the Society—there is an adequate list in the *Monthly Weather Review*. To members who are especially interested in certain phases of meteorology and who have indicated a desire to see current publications in such phases the Editor has been sending papers for review. There should be more members served this way and in return serving the Society.

"An examination of snow deposits"

by Gerald Seligman, in *The British Ski Year Book* (vol. VII, no. 14, 1933, pp. 65-143, 62 figs.), provides lovers of winter sports and landscapes a charming, though scientific, discussion of "the internal structure of snow deposits and the influence of physical changes that take place in them on snow conditions." The author begins with the origin and structure of falling snow; shows how evaporation, condensation, melting and freezing govern changes in snow and lead to firnification; discusses wind influences on snow, which are more than simply mechanical packing, and concludes with a beautifully illustrated section on hoar deposits.

The "weather and snow conditions in Norway," season, 1932-33, are briefly described in the same *British Ski Year Book*, pp. 61-64, by M. R. C. Nanson, who includes a weather table giving the frequency of good skiing days. The sunniness, quietness, and only moderate coldness of the climate are striking to one familiar with the blustery character of our northern winters in much lower latitudes.