

warming influence of the Japanese Current. No reliable data exist to support such a belief and it is quite unlikely that the Japanese Current plays any important part in modifying the climate of the Pacific Coast. The active factors as said before are the prevailing eastward drift of the atmosphere and the proximity of the mass of water, a great conservator of heat. It is probable that if these conditions could be reversed and the general movement of the air from east to west, marked changes in climatic conditions would result and the Pacific Coast might then have a rigorous climate.

The exceedingly diversified topography from a distance of two thousand miles from the coast inland is the fourth climatic control. In California perhaps more than in any other part of the habitable earth a great diversity in climate exists. A short study of the relief map of California throws much light on the cause of the great diversity of climate.—*Alice Jones.*

CLIMATES OF THE UNITED STATES.

“*The essential characteristics of United States climates*” are vividly presented by Prof. R. DeC. Ward in the December, 1920, *Scientific Monthly* (pp. 555–568). Instead of being faced with uninteresting climatic tables, the reader learns of the characteristic types of weather in each of the five major climatic provinces of the country. A map and discussion of these climatic subdivisions was first published in the *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society*, in 1915 (vol. 47, pp. 672–680). In the large Eastern province almost any kind of weather may be expected at any time of the year. The Gulf Province is warmer and wetter, but subject to killing frosts. The Plains Province is set off by its uncertain rainfall, most of which comes when most needed for crops, i. e., in spring and early summer. Generally quiet, dry weather, with great ranges of temperature, is characteristic of the Plateau Province. Finally, the Pacific Province is noted for its usual steadiness of weather and for its marked winter rainy season and summer dry season. The most important difference between the northern and southern portions of the climatic provinces, as succinctly shown by small tables, is one of temperature, except that along the Pacific Coast the greatest contrast between north and south is one of rainfall. In that region there is a fairly regular decrease in the duration and amount of rainfall, from north to south, from highland to lowland and from coast to interior.

Professor Ward’s broad presentation of the climates of the United States and their human effects make this article of value not only to the general reader, but also to him who wishes to gain a comprehensive view before studying details.—*Charles F. Brooks.*

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

SUBMITTED BY A. H. PALMER.

Readers of this BULLETIN may remember several notes on “rainmaking” which were published last year. It appears that “rainmakers” hibernate, for nothing was heard of their activities during the past winter. However, with the coming of spring at least one has emerged from temporary inactivity, as is evident from the following dispatch which appeared in the “*San Francisco Chronicle*” recently: