

During the passage of the Pons-Winnecke comet exposures were made for a period of ten days for the purpose of gathering specimens of meteoric dust. The exposures consisted of plain glass slips, balsam smears and vulcanite cells. There was nothing unusual in the catchment. Stray particles of meteoric dust occasionally land upon exposed slips but none of the few discovered could be recognized as cometary matter. Particles of meteoric dust escape from a slide very readily unless imprisoned in balsam. They are apt to fly into the air when examined unless the slip rests on a magnet. It is a good plan to expose the slips on a magnet. The particles composing cometary haze are too small to be distinguishable under the highest power of the microscope. Particles of meteoric dust 1 mm. in diameter may be examined fairly well with $\frac{1}{8}$ inch objective: some are discernible with a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch objective. During the time while the exposures were made the results were distinctly negative. Perhaps other observers were more fortunate than I. Cometary dust is likely to be left in the stratosphere for some time to come.—*J. W. Redway.*

Members of the Rotary Club at Phoenix, Ariz., after listening to a talk on weather forecasting by Robert Q. Grant, Meteorologist at the United States Weather Bureau in that city, indulged in a weather forecasting contest. Fourteen prizes were awarded to those who came nearest the correct forecast.—*Arizona Republican*, Nov. 6, 1920.

Field surveying with a barometer. (By J. Cecil Alter, *Salt Lake City Telegram*, May 8, 1921.)—The aneroid barometer has been used with considerable success in the field. Engineers have employed it in connection with a recording barometer to make preliminary surveys for railroad and pipe lines, irrigation systems and highways. A careful comparison between the two instruments and the making of the necessary allowances for the temperature and pressure at the end of the day's work renders the use of the aneroid fairly accurate. The U. S. Army Engineering Corps made use of the aneroid barometer in locating positions for artillery units, measuring the heights of hills, and other "terrain" work in France.]—*G. H. B.*

SCIENCE SERVICE.

In our daily newspapers we occasionally see some scientific article or note, marked "Science Service." As stated by the editor, Dr. Edwin E. Slossen, (in *Science*, Apr. 8, 1921, pp. 322-323):

"Science Service will aim to act as a sort of liaison officer between scientific circles and the outside world. It will endeavor to interpret the results of original research as they appear in the technical journals and proceedings of societies in a way to enlighten the layman. Science Service will spare no pains or expense in the endeavor (1) to get the best possible quality of popular science writing and (2) to get it to the largest possible number of readers. If in doing this it can make both ends meet, so much the better. If not, it will do it anyway.

"Through the generosity of Mr. E. W. Scripps, of Miramar, California, the Science Service has been assured of such financial support from the start as to insure its independence. It will not be under the control of any clique, class or commercial interest. It will not be the organ of any one association. It will serve all the sciences. It will supply any of the news syndicates. It will not indulge in propaganda unless it be propaganda to urge the value of research and the usefulness of science.

"The editor of Science Service desires to receive advance information of important researches approaching the point of publicity in order to arrange for their proper presentation in the press. He also wishes to secure correspondents in every university and center of research who have the time, disposition and ability to write for non-technical journals. He particularly wants to get in

touch with young men and women in the various sciences who have literary inclinations and would be willing to submit to a rigorous course of training with a view to making the writing of popular science a part of their life work.

"The manager (Howard Wheeler) wants to learn from newspapers and periodicals what sort of scientific news they need. If editors will notify Science Service by mail or telegraph whenever they want an article on any scientific subject, an effort will be made to find the best authority to write it."

The headquarters of Science Service are with the National Research Council 1701 Massachusetts Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. Anyone wishing to aid in the distribution of meteorological knowledge may well devote part of his energy to writing notes for Science Service. Those used are paid for at an attractive rate.

After expressing thanks for favorable mention of his science column in the *Washington Herald* (July-Aug. BULL. p. 97), Mr. Watson Davis writes as follows:

I am now editing for Science Service their Science News Bulletin which is a weekly News Service to newspapers in all parts of the country with a circulation totaling 1,500,000 per day. For this reason I am particularly interested in the statement by Mr. Shepard on page 98 of your Bulletin. It coincides so exactly with just what we are trying to do that I am very hopeful that we can look to your Society for occasional news and for stories. While now we serve largely city newspapers we have hopes and plans which will include papers located in agricultural districts.

WEATHER ON A NEW ENGLAND FARM.

Weather plays an important role in the life of one born and brought up on a New England Farm. So many things that one wishes to do, so many tasks that must be performed depend on a particular variety of weather, that the country child of New England begins early to take notice of it. It permits of his having this pleasure or it prevents his carrying out that project. One day he is coasting on the crusts along the roadside, the next he is sailing his boats in the gutter, and in a week or two he is perchance teasing his mother to allow him to go swimming, because the pond has been open so long and the day has been so hot!

After the winter, which has become a little dreary, comes a day when the air is clear and bracing, the sky is high, with here and there a feathery white, floating cloud to emphasize its blueness. We lift our heads high, take a long, deep breath and remark, "There's a smell of spring in the air." We are already planning the spring work, laying out the garden, overhauling the ploughs and getting ready to put away the old sleigh. But we do not forget to bank the fires well at night for the air grows chill as soon as the sun sets and the mud in the barn-yard freezes and hardens. We spend the evening looking over the seed catalogue which we had sent for in anticipation of just such a day.

But alas for our dreams of gardens! In the morning instead of digging out the hotbed, we find there is a considerable layer of snow to be shovelled away from the doorstep.

Days pass by, rainy and bright, cloudy and clear, cold and warm and the work goes on apace. The first signs of life begin to appear in field and wood and we hasten our footsteps to the neighboring hillside to search for the first arbutus. The wind may be high and raw and chill, but there we find our spring-time friend peeping out from beneath its protecting layer of dead leaves. We hurry home to learn whether this is not a day or two earlier than we found it last year. If it be so, there is rejoicing. Every New England child knows the pleasure that goes with having been the first one to discover the spring flowers as they follow one another in close procession: shad, violet, gold thread and trillium.