

Scientific Sessions

There were five sessions at which scientific papers were presented—one on December 31st, and two each on January 2d and 3d. Almost without exception the papers were discussed, in some cases by several members and visitors, and much of interest and value was brought out in these discussions. Several of the papers either have been or will be published in the *Monthly Weather Review* or elsewhere. Abstracts of the others are given in the following pages, and with them brief summaries of the discussions. In preparing the latter Mr. W. R. Gregg has been greatly assisted by Messrs. John J. Brennan and Vernon N. Wolf of the Weather Bureau, who made stenographic notes at all of the sessions.

The Presidential Address.

The first scientific session was held in the afternoon of December 31st, with Prof. R. DeC. Ward, ex-president, in the chair, and was wholly occupied in listening to the presidential address by Prof. W. I. Milham on, *The Year 1816—The Causes of Abnormalities*.

The climatic features of this year and of the period in which it occurred were discussed and compared both with normal conditions and with other abnormal periods. The general question of why any year or any period is abnormal was then attacked, and the various theories that have been advanced at different times were presented and analyzed. Though anything like a definite answer cannot yet be given to this question, it was pointed out that real progress has been and is being made. The speaker concluded by urging that more intensive studies be undertaken on this very important subject.

The presiding officer warmly congratulated the speaker and expressed the thanks of the Society for his very illuminating and timely address.

In accordance with the rules governing presidential addresses there was no formal discussion following the presentation of this one.

The address will be published in full in the *Monthly Weather Review*.

The Madrid Meeting of the International Union of the Geodesy and Geophysics

By H. H. Kimball

(Published in the *Monthly Weather Review*, November, 1924).

A question being asked as to the source of financial support for the work of the Union, Dr. Kimball replied that funds are derived from payments by the different countries as adhering members of the International Research Council and of the Associated Unions.

Application of Schuster's Periodogram to Long Rainfall Records

By DINSMORE ALTER

This paper may be found in the *Monthly Weather Review* for October, 1924, pp. 479-488.