

ture, precipitation, and sunshine to be expected in the locality where it developed.

At the present time, however, mechanical devices have succeeded in controlling, or at least regulating, nature to such an extent that the *absolute* effect of climate has been removed. Nevertheless, there is appropriateness to consider, and a library building, the essential design of which is in the "style of the land" as nature

has determined it for a particular region, seems to be most successful in achieving architectural harmony. The Spanish colonial architecture of the Los Angeles Public Library system and the Gothic architecture of the Sterling Memorial Library at New Haven are among the prominent examples of appropriate adaptation.—Summary by *Edith M. Fitton*, Library of Congress.

City Air Bad for Library Books

Books in city libraries deteriorate more rapidly than those housed in the country, the Bureau of Standards discovered recently in experiments with publications dating as far back as 1779.

Deterioration in the city is ascribed by bureau experts to the presence in city air of small quantities of sulphur dioxide. Laboratory work at the bureau has revealed that two to nine parts of sulphur dioxide per 1,000,000 parts of air caused marked deterioration of paper in 240 hours.

Since all libraries can not be located in the country or in suburban areas the bureau has recommended that polluted air be given an alkaline washing before it is admitted to libraries.

The bureau also finds that papers containing appreciable quantities of ground-wood fibers were in much poorer state of preservation than the papers containing chemically refined rag and wood fibers.—Contributed by *C. J. Root*.

BOOK REVIEW

The book under review is the "Drama of Weather" by Sir Napier Shaw, Cambridge University Press. The price listed is 7/6 which we hesitate to quote owing to the uncertain value of the American dollar; but \$3.50 will purchase the book from the Macmillan Company, New York. The author needs no introduction, for he stands easily at the head of *Watchers of the World's Weather* to whom the volume is dedicated. He calls it a book of unconventional essays. It is, and is delightfully written. Back in 1914 he planned a summer holiday given over to filming the clouds. This was part of a study of the weather and doubtless from this originated the idea of a drama, the sequence of

changes which might appeal to the audience as the progress of a drama quite as interesting for students of nature as some which achieve popularity on the smaller stage. The World War put an end to the photography of the cloud sequence, but the idea remained and the present volume is an aftermath of four monumental volumes, namely *Meteorology in History*, *Comparative Meteorology*, *the Physical Processes of the Weather* and *the Meteorological Calculus*, *Pressure and Wind*. So rapidly do events move that the 577 illustrations of the four volumes serve as a call for more and there is now no question but that the kinematograph is in demand. Pictures tell the progress of the drama; and the