Meeting of Austrian Society.

The Austrian Society for Meteorology held its annual meeting on February 27, 1922. An important part of the discussion related to the cost of maintaining the mountain observatories on the Sonnblick and Obir. The cost of publishing the Meteorologische Zeitschrift also was shown to have increased so that the present price per year for subscribers in the United States is $4.80. The membership increased from 252 to 279 during the year. (Met. Zeit., May, 1922, pp. 147-149).

The Color of Lightning.

"... The blueness of lightning ... (is) a subjective effect due to the brilliancy of very near flashes. The brighter the light the more blue it appears. On the other hand the redness might be due to two causes. Real red flashes are not unknown, but rosy flashes are more common. These red flashes are supposed to be due to the discharge passing through hydrogen derived from the dissociation of water; hydrogen has many lines in the red.

In the present case the redness as seen from Oxford was probably simply due to atmospheric absorption. Distant lightning appears red for the same reason as the sun and moon appear red when near the horizon. This would be very likely with the turbid atmosphere of a winter afternoon."—Met. Mag., June, 1922, p. 136.

HAIL IN THE TROPICS.

In the Bulletin for May, 1920, (1:52) there is a brief discussion concerning the frequency of hail in the tropics, in which it is stated that there were few records of hail occurring near sea-level in the tropics, except near the borders. During recent field work in the Pacific I came upon a number of records of hail occurring near sea level somewhat less than 20 degrees from the equator, and think it may be worth while to record the more notable instances.

Hail storms are officially reported from latitudes 13° to 16° S. in the northern territory of Australia 10 times in the ten-year period 1908-1917. Seven of these falls were within 14° of the equator and all near sea level. The chief localities are Brocks Creek, Burrundie, Pine Creek and Bonrock.

In Queensland, Australia, Normantown, latitude 17½° S., practically at sea level, has had one hail storm in recent years, while Townsville, on the sea coast in latitude 19¼° has had three, two of them severe. Mackay, Rockhampton and other seaports between 20° and the tropics have had several severe hail storms.

In the Fiji Islands a severe hailstorm occurred at sea level in latitude 16½° S. on Rambe, Nov. 20, 1880; in latitude 16¾° near Bua, May 16, 1866; in latitude 17° 20' and 17° 45' in Mango and Cicia, respectively, on April 29, 1878; and near Suva, latitude 18° 10' in May, 1918. In all of these Fiji cases some of the hailstones were larger than pigeon eggs. Some of those in Mango and Cicia were two inches across.

Near Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands, in latitude 21½° hail occasionally falls at sea level. One hail storm occurred in a suburb of the city in 1921. Some years ago there was a fall in the city itself.