REDUCTION OF A CENTURY OF TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS TOHOMOGENEITY.

By Eric R. Miller.

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A table of monthly mean temperatures from October, 1819, to date has been prepared for Madison, Wis. Of these, 59 years 8 months are derived from observations actually made at Madison. The period from October, 1819, to December, 1873, is covered by data from stations in Wisconsin and adjoining states at which observations were made by the Army Medical Corps, Smithsonian observers, and others.

The Madison data have been corrected to the mean of 24 hourly observations. The other data have in addition corrections for reduction to Madison. These corrections were obtained from recent observations.

The aggregate length of record from the 17 neighboring stations used is 283 years 10 months, and gives from one to nine estimates of the mean temperature for each month.

Comparison of these estimates with one another and with observations at Madison, when available show that single estimates may differ 5° or 6°, but that the mean of four or five estimates is within 2.5°F.

The comparisons also show that the Smithsonian and Army thermometers were exposed to the sun at some stations. The influence of exposure nearer the ground than in Weather Bureau offices of the present day is also plainly evident. Only one case, of serious instrumental error was detected among the 18 stations considered. Many typographical errors in printed tables were found.

VARIATION OF THE INDICATIONS OF ROBINSON AND RICHARD ANEMOMETERS WITH THE INCLINATION OF THE WIND.

By C. E. Brazier.

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Robinson and Richard anemometers have been exposed, in an aerodynamical laboratory, to wind currents of known velocity making various angles with the normal position in which the instrument is used, and some preliminary results are noted in this paper. The number of revolutions per second (n) in the normal position is found to be related to the wind velocity (V) by a relation of the form V = A + Bn for the Robinson anemometer and n = aV² + bV³ + cV⁴ for the Richard anemometer; the term in V² may be omitted by reducing the size of the Richard instrument. If the instruments are inclined to their normal position at angles up to 30° it is found sufficient to modify the above relations, expressed in the form n = φ(V), simply by multiplying φ(V) by a factor. For an inclination of 30° the factors found are 1.1 for the Robinson anemometer and 0.8 for the Richard. The experiments show that, for a given wind velocity, the variation in the velocity of rotation is not a simple function of the inclination of the instrument to the normal position, and the effect of increasing the inclination up to 90° is shown by an example for each instrument. A description is added of the effect of exposing an element of a Robinson anemometer (2m sec⁻¹) to the normal position to a stream of air velocity 5 m/sec. Four positions of equilibrium are found, two stable and two unstable. Commencing with a position of stable equilibrium and increasing the velocity of the air, the system after oscillating finally rotates continuously in the ordinary sense.—M. A. G.

DISCUSSION.

This note is important in that it indicates a method of determining true velocities from anemometers carried by kites or airplanes whose position may change more or less with reference to air currents, as infirmities of the "windmill" type (such as Richard's) when they are oriented by vanes of different lengths.