

was built in 1906 at Seddin, about 12 kilometres south-west of Potsdam. Magnetographs are now in operation there as well as at Potsdam under the Potsdam staff. A description of the Seddin buildings and instruments is thus included.

The volume contains much of interest to all meteorologists and magneticians, and is admirably suited for the purpose for which it was primarily intended. A previous study of it will double the advantages of a visit, while subsequent consultation will recall memories of a most pleasant and profitable experience.

C. CHREE.

RECENT SEA-LEVEL VARIATIONS IN JAPAN AND ITALY.¹

IN a valuable memoir, Prof. Omori deals with the variations in the height of the sea-level at nine mareograph stations in Japan from 1898 (in a few cases from 1894) to 1910, referred to in a note in NATURE of December 26, 1912 (vol. xc., p. 471). They are greatly in excess of any changes that might be due to variations of barometric pressure or air-temperature, and the effects of wind are probably negligible. These variations being allowed for, there remain considerable changes in the mean annual height of the sea-level

at all nine stations, the greatest being a decrease in height of 22.7 mm. per year at Ayukama. In the accompanying sketch-map, the shaded areas represent the parts of Japan which are now subsiding, the boundaries inland being determined by interpolation. The figures at the different stations denote the mean annual rise or fall of the sea-level in millimetres per year. It is on the east side, to which the present depressions are chiefly confined, that the greatest depths of ocean lie and the most violent earthquakes originate.

Prof. Omori also compares the variations in the average height of the sea-level in the whole of Japan (the barometric and temperature corrections being made) with the variations in the latitude of Tokyo and Mizusawa for each year from 1895 to 1910. The curves representing both variations show a remarkable correspondence.

¹ F. Omori: (1) "On the Recent Sea-level Variation at the Different Japanese Mareograph Stations" (Bull. Imp. Earthq. Inv. Com., vol. v., 1913, pp. 39-86). (2) "Note on the Recent Sea-level Variation at the Italian and Austrian Mareograph Stations, and on the Cause of the Messina-Reggio Earthquake of 1908" (*ibid.*, pp. 87-100).

The average height of the sea-level was greatest in 1899 and 1905-06, and least in 1897 and 1902; the latitude was a maximum about 1899-1900 and in 1906, and a minimum in 1897 and 1902. Corresponding to a variation of 0.1" in the latitude, there was a change of 40 mm. in the height of the sea-level.

The examination of the records at seventeen mareograph stations in Italy and Austria from 1900-08 shows that in all parts of Italy the height of the sea-level was decreasing by amounts ranging from 10.5 mm. per year in the neighbourhood of Pola and Ancona, to between 4 and 5 mm. per year at Naples and Messina and less than 2 mm. per year at Palermo. In 1908 the mean sea-level reached a well-defined minimum, and Prof. Omori suggests that this may have been a secondary cause of the Messina earthquake at the close of that year.

C. D.

NOTES.

A STATUE of Lord Kelvin, which has been subscribed for mainly by the public of Belfast, is to be unveiled to-day (Thursday) in the Botanic Gardens, Belfast. The Chancellor of the Queen's University, Belfast (the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.P.), will preside, and Sir Joseph Larmor, M.P., F.R.S., will perform the unveiling ceremony, and deliver an address. The statue is the work of Mr. Bruce Joy. Invitations to the ceremony have been issued to the Lord Mayor and Corporation of Belfast, to the Senate and professors of the Queen's University, Belfast, and to a number of leading men of science.—The statue of Lord Kelvin erected by the contributions of his fellow-citizens in Glasgow and the west of Scotland has been placed in position by the side of the new Kelvin Avenue, which traverses the Kelvingrove Park beneath Gilmorehill, close to the University of Glasgow. The statue will be unveiled on October 8 next, by the Right Hon. A. Birrell, Lord Rector of the University, and an address on Kelvin will be subsequently delivered by the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, Gifford lecturer in the University.—The Kelvin memorial window in Westminster Abbey will be unveiled on July 15.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death, from spleno-medullary leucæmia, of Prof. N. H. Alcock, Joseph Morley Drake professor of physiology in McGill University, Montreal. Prof. Alcock was born in 1871, and received his medical education at Trinity College, Dublin, and Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital. He graduated as B.A. and M.D. in Dublin University in 1896, taking senior moderatorship and gold medal in natural science. He was shortly afterwards appointed demonstrator of anatomy at Victoria University, Manchester. In the following year he was appointed assistant professor of physiology in Dublin University. In 1903 he became demonstrator of physiology at London University, and in the following year he succeeded Dr. Waller as lecturer in physiology in St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington. In 1909 he obtained the degree of D.Sc. of London University in consideration of his researches