

A fault which might be remedied in future issues is the omission of any scale of distances or parallels of latitude and longitude from the charts.

The rainfall charts have been compiled from data extending over twenty to forty years, with a few stations with only fifteen years' record, indicating that, meteorologically at any rate, Australia is no longer in relative infancy. During the summer months, when the variation of temperature is most rapid near the south coast, the rainfall is greatest on the north and north-east coasts, and the isohyets are closest together in these regions. The distribution gradually changes, and during the winter months the rainfall and its variation are greatest in the south and south-east districts. The change in the position of the isohyets from month to month is very regular; the motion is similar to that of a pendulum, the distribution in the warm months being at one end of the swing and that in the cold months at the other.

In New South Wales, at Forbes, near the centre of gravity of Australia's population, and not far from the site of the new Federal capital, there is practically no variation in the rainfall from month to month; each month has about 2 in. of rainfall. Utilising this fact and the regularity of the change for other regions, the Commonwealth Meteorologist has constructed a rainfall "clock." Isohyets of appropriate shape are drawn on a card placed beneath another card with the outline of Australia cut out of it. The lower card is rotated about an axis through Forbes, and as it moves the rainfall distribution for different months appears, the appropriate positions for each month being shown by an index mark. The remarkable regularity which renders possible this simple device leads the Commonwealth Meteorologist to suggest that Australian meteorology may be of such importance for general investigations as to warrant the establishment of observatories there, internationally supported and controlled.

E. G.

THE RESEARCH DEFENCE SOCIETY.

THE Research Defence Society held its annual general meeting on Tuesday, June 24, at the Royal College of Physicians. The chair was taken by the president of the society, Sir David Gill, and there was a very large attendance. The speakers were:—Bishop Frodsham, founder of the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine; Sir Thomas Barlow, president of the Royal College of Physicians; Lord Cromer, Sir Hugh Bell, and Mr. Waldorf Astor. The report, presented by Mr. Sydney Holland, chairman of committee, gave a good account of the society's work during the past year with special reference to the campaign against anti-vivisection shops. It stated also that the council of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is sending out a referendum to all the members of that society. The point is, whether it was right or wrong to reject Lord Chylesmore from the council of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on the ground that he is a vice-president of the Research Defence Society. Seeing the advantages which animals have gained from experiments on animals, and the many restrictions placed on experiments on animals in this country, we think that a man may very properly hold office in both societies; and we are glad that Lord Cromer and Sir Hugh Bell spoke very strongly on this point.

Mr. Waldorf Astor, in an admirable speech, referred to the good news, this week, that the Government has allotted 57,000*l.* annually to research in relation to tuberculosis, and has appointed the Committee and the Advisory Council for this great work. Sir Thomas

Barlow spoke of that unity of purpose which is between the men of science and the men in practice: how the doctor and the surgeon are indeed guided and helped by the physiologists and pathologists. Bishop Frodsham spoke of the Christianity of all work done, carefully and wisely, for the relief of suffering humanity; and, as Bishop of North Queensland, he has seen more than most of us of the misery caused by certain obscure tropical diseases, and has done more than most of us to alleviate it. Thus the subject which the Research Defence Society exists to popularise was presented from diverse points of view. Take what point of view we will, it is a subject of national importance.

THE BELFAST MEMORIAL TO LORD KELVIN.

THE statue of Lord Kelvin which has been subscribed for by the citizens of Belfast was unveiled by Sir Joseph Larmor, M.P., F.R.S., on Thursday last, June 19, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering. The Chancellor of the Queen's University (the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.P.) presided, and the attendance included the Lady Mayoress of Belfast, the Vice-Chancellor of the Queen's University of Belfast, members of the Senate of Queen's University, and many of the leading citizens of Belfast.

In the course of his remarks, the chairman said that from the time of the death of Lord Kelvin the wish was uppermost in his (Lord Shaftesbury's) mind—as indeed he felt sure it was in the mind of everyone present—that there should be erected within the city of Belfast a fitting memorial to a man whose fame had gained for him a paramount position in the city of his birth and in the city with which he and his family were so intimately connected, as well as in the whole world. That day they were to see the consummation of their aspirations, and he offered his warmest thanks to Sir Joseph Larmor, who had so kindly come to perform the unveiling ceremony.

Sir Joseph Larmor then delivered an address, of which the main part is subjoined:—

I am deputed to represent on this occasion a company of subscribers, our fellow-citizens, who have thought it right that the genius of Lord Kelvin, and the great activities which kept him in the forefront of the advance of physical science in an age in which it has transformed the world, should receive permanent commemoration in the city of his birth and parentage, in the community among whom he passed the early years of his life, and to whom, in his later years, he put in an almost passionate claim that he belonged. We do not forget how profoundly he was moulded by the great city of Glasgow, with which his active career was so conspicuously associated. The intimate conferences from his early manhood with the pioneers of industrial development such as that city has possessed ever since the days of James Watt—discussions along the lines of unfolding problems of mechanical power, of naval construction, of the art of navigation—were just what was required to develop the student and natural philosopher into his other aspect, more familiar to the world at large, as the prophet and guide in the utilisation of the vast opportunities opened up, for the practical convenience of life, by modern scientific discovery. By no amount of mere natural ingenuity, after the manner of an inventor or a man of affairs, could anyone have attained to this position; an essential condition was sustained intellectual discipline such as Lord Kelvin enjoyed from his early years.