if the whole scheme should work satisfactorily provided that it is not beyond the limits of the University chest.

A change is contemplated in the organisation of biological faculties. The old special board of biology and geology consisted of twenty-eight members. Under the new scheme there will be two faculties, namely, Biology "A," including anatomy, botany, genetics, geology, parasitology, and zoology, and Biology "B," comprising biochemistry, pathology, physiology, with experimental psychology added. For certain purposes a "School of Biological Sciences" will be formed. It seems a little doubtful if any good result will be achieved by this splitting of what was a fairly natural grouping, if a large one.

The primary duty of the Commission was to adjust the relations of the University and the colleges; this has been done not only in the provision of reserved fellowships and in the centralisation of teaching activities, but also in the matter of contributions from the colleges to the University chest. In the

past, the colleges together have had to pay such a percentage of their combined incomes as provided the sum of 30,000*l.* per annum. In the future, definite rates of taxation are proposed by which the poorer colleges will pay less and the larger ones will pay more than heretofore. On the other side, the colleges are relieved from paying contributions on income derived from students. There are adjustments to be made during the transition period, and a rough calculation suggests that at first the sum due from collegiate sources will not greatly exceed the 30,000*l.* As the new order comes in, there should be an increasing sum available, and further, as colleges become more wealthy owing to benefactions or husbanded resources, the University will in its turn be able to expand its activities. It is too much to hope that the University will ever cease to be an active beggar, but the anomaly of the underpaid university officer serving through a university organisation the requirements of colleges, some outstandingly wealthy, should be removed.

International Meteorological Research.

THE Meteorological Section of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics met at Madrid at the beginning of October 1924, and the proceedings of the Section edited by the secretary, Prof. Eredia, have now been published. Some doubt had been felt by those familiar with international meteorological organisation as to whether the Meteorological Section of the Geophysical Union could find a broad enough field of operations without encroaching upon the proper domain of the International Meteorological Committee. The report of the work of the Section at Madrid which is contained in the present volume ought to remove any doubt of this kind. There are points where the work of the Section touches the work of the International Meteorological Committee, and under the guidance of a president less familiar than Sir Napier Shaw with international meteorological organisation, the Section might have wasted a certain amount of time in the unprofitable discussion of questions belonging to the field of official administration. The minutes of the five meetings, one of which was held conjointly with the Sections of Hydrology, Oceanography and Terrestrial Magnetism, show that the Commission confined itself to the encouragement and development of experimental and exploratory work in meteorology.

One of the most important decisions, afterwards confirmed by the Union in general session, was to provide for the issue of a specimen volume of the observations of the upper atmosphere for a single year, collected from all the world. It is understood that this volume is now in course of preparation, and will represent a great advance not only in regard to the number of observations included but also more especially in regard to their presentation for scientific discussion.

Another important decision arose out of a discussion on the question of the establishment of an International Bureau. It was decided to make a subvention to an existing meteorological service for the execution of a piece of work of the kind that an International Bureau might be expected to undertake. Mr. la Cour, director of the Danish Meteorological Institute, was entrusted with the work selected, which consists in the preparation of an atlas of daily or twice daily synoptic charts for as large a portion as possible of the Northern Hemisphere for the third quarter of the year 1923.

The appendices to the proceedings contain some interesting proposals and some valuable data. The American delegates presented, among other things, a proposal to adopt Dr. Marvin's suggestion for improving the Gregorian calendar. The suggestion is, briefly, to have a year of 13 months and a quarter of 13 weeks. There would be an odd day to dispose of in ordinary years and 2 days in leap years. The Commission approved of having 52 weeks in the year, one of the weeks being a week of 8 days, and decided to recommend the Advisory and Technical Committee on Communications and Transit of the League of Nations to take into consideration as soon as possible the simplification of the Gregorian calendar. In a matter of this kind there does not appear to be special need for urgency; the need appears to be rather for discussion and deliberation. A change in the calendar is, and ought to be, an infrequent event, but when a change is made it ought to be as much of an advance as humanity can stand. It seems a pity that the Commission did not tackle the question of the length of the week; it is fundamental. There appears to be no reason why the 7-day arrangement which commended itself to pastoral oriental people 3000 years ago should be suited to western urban civilisation of to-day. Many facts indicate that it is not. A break at the end of 6 days is too soon for the man who has a piece of work in which he is really interested; it is too late for the man who is not specially interested in his work. Consequently the latter, nowadays, usually has a mid-week half-holiday. A 10-day week with a secular mid-week holiday might be better for all concerned. It would save us from the numerical inconvenience and the ill omen of 13 months in the year.

Another appendix deals with the subject of radiation in relation to meteorology. A table giving the radiation of black earth at various temperatures will prove most useful for reference by all students of meteorology and ought to find its way into all standard collections of meteorological tables. The tabulated values of actual radiation recorded at various places, given on pp. 94-121, provide the first systematic collection of observations of radiation, and their issue should lead to the adoption of an international form for the publication of such records in future. The variety of forms and units now in use is an obstacle to research which might well be removed.

E. GOLD.