

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

MR. H. ALLEN has contributed an article to the *American Meteorological Journal* for October, on the behaviour of pressure and temperature in low and high pressure systems. Recent investigations by M. Dechevrens (and others) tend to show that, while a high temperature accompanies a low pressure at sea-level, the fluctuations are reversed at some height above sea-level. Mr. Allen maintains that this conclusion is not supported by his examination of observations made on Mount Washington, where the minimum pressure does not coincide with the passage of the storm centre over the station, but lags about eleven hours behind it, and he considers that this fact explains the peculiar results obtained by M. Dechevrens. The same number also contains an article by Prof. F. Waldo, "On the Absolute Reduction of Wind Observations at Sea." He recommends the use of some instrument to assist the judgment of different observers, at the actual time of observation.

THE results of meteorological observations made at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, in the year 1884, contain daily means of eye observations and of the self-recording instruments, comparisons of the mean monthly temperatures at 5 and 105 feet above the ground, and rainfall observations on the ground at 22 and 112 feet. Interesting tables are given showing the relations of pressure, temperature, &c., under different winds. The total sunshine during 1884 was 1260.9 hours, being 173.7 hours less than the mean of five years. The observations are reckoned for astronomical and for Greenwich mean time.

ON September 19, 1887, the Russian Government gave notice that storm signals (consisting of day and night signals) would be made at their principal ports in the Black Sea. The signals are shown for forty-eight hours, unless instructions are received to lower them before that time has elapsed: also, the cause assigned for hoisting each signal will be posted up at the respective signal stations. The day signals consist of a cone, hoisted either alone, or with a drum, both painted black, and each about 3 feet in diameter. The night signals consist of three red lights, hoisted at the angles of an equilateral triangle, of the same size as the cone used by day. These signals correspond to those in this country—except that the drum is not now used, and night signals are only exhibited at very few stations.

IN *La Nature* of November 12 M. Jules Girard contributes an article entitled "The Probable Temperature of the Pole," based upon the results of the circumpolar expeditions of 1852-83, and upon the observations of some earlier expeditions, in which he has tabulated the mean temperatures for each month. From these data the author traces two principal centres of intense cold, one in the north of Siberia near the mouths of the Lena, and the other to the north of Hudson's Bay, near Boothia. The lowest mean temperature quoted for July is 30° at Jeannette Island, to the north of the islands of New Siberia, and the lowest mean for January is -49° at Fort Yukon, Alaska.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AND LOCAL SOCIETIES.

THE third Annual Conference of Delegates of Corresponding Societies was held at Manchester, thirty-two of these affiliated Societies having nominated Delegates to attend the meeting. The following Report of the Conference, signed by Mr. Francis Galton as Chairman, and by Prof. R. Meldola as Secretary, has just been issued:—

At the first meeting of the Conference the chair was taken by Prof. W. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., the Corresponding Societies Committee being represented by Dr. J. G. Garson and Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., Secretary.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, stated that the British Association was anxious to be brought into as close a relationship as possible with the local Societies of this country. The work carried on by many of these Societies was of the greatest value to science, and it was felt that their efforts might be promoted by simplifying and unifying their labours. The present meeting was called for this purpose, and for that of bringing together the representatives of the various Corresponding Societies.

The Secretary read the Report of the Corresponding Societies Committee which had been presented to the General Committee of the Association at the meeting on Wednesday, August 31.

The names of the Delegates who desired to be attached to the Sectional Committees as "Delegate Members" were collected by the Secretary in accordance with the resolution passed at the Conference last year at Birmingham (see last Report, *NATURE*, vol. xxxv. p. 78).

The Chairman called upon the Delegates to make any statements respecting the action that had been taken by their Societies with reference to the suggestions put forward last year, and which had been embodied in the Report just read.

Prehistoric Remains Committee.—Mr. J. W. Davis stated that the Prehistoric Remains Committee had been carrying on their work during the past year, and they proposed to apply for reappointment. Two reports had already been obtained relating to the bronze implements of the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire, and several others had been promised for next year.

Preservation of Stonehenge.—With reference to the preservation of Stonehenge, Dr. Garson stated that the resolution which had been submitted last year to the Delegates at the Birmingham Conference had been considered by the Committee of Section H, and, having been adopted by them, had been brought before the General Committee, and also accepted. He believed that in consequence of this action negotiations were now going on between the Council of the British Association and the proprietor of these remains.¹

Prof. Boyd Dawkins remarked that the state of neglect into which Stonehenge had been allowed to fall had by no means been overstated in the resolution referred to. A person had recently been seen on a ladder chipping off pieces from the horizontal stone of one of the trilithons.

Ancient Monuments Act.—The Chairman and Dr. Garson made some remarks in explanation of the working of the Ancient Monuments Act. It was pointed out by the latter that the local Societies could do good service by inducing the proprietors of prehistoric remains to communicate with General Pitt-Rivers, the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, with the object of placing these remains under Government protection. The Chairman urged those Delegates who represented the Northern, and especially the Scotch Societies to use their influence in inducing the owners of ancient remains to assist in carrying out the objects of the Act. In reply to a question by Mr. F. T. Mott, as to whether camps and earthworks were to be taken into consideration, the Chairman did not think that any Government could be expected to become a landowner to the extent of all the earthworks in the country.

Provincial Museums Committee.—With reference to the work of this Committee, Mr. F. T. Mott stated that they had been engaged during the past year in collecting particulars respecting museums other than those in London. Considerable assistance had been given by the Secretaries of many of the local Societies. If the Committee was reappointed, as he hoped it would be, he thought there were one or two matters on which the local Societies might possibly render still more valuable aid. The Report of the Committee was not yet passed, but it would, no doubt, be read in the course of the present meeting of the Association, and would then be accessible.

Prof. Boyd Dawkins stated that the schedule issued by this Committee was a very difficult one to fill up, and he expressed a hope that something shorter and simpler would be sent out.

The Rev. H. Winwood expressed similar views.

Mr. Robert Pullar and Mr. J. W. Davis mentioned two museums which the Committee had not heard of—viz. that of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science at Perth, and Mr. Davis's museum at Chevinedge, Halifax.

Earth Tremors.—Prof. Lebour stated that the subject of earth tremors, which he had brought forward at the Conference of Delegates last year at Birmingham, had since taken a more

¹ The following extract relating to this matter is from the Council Report for 1886-87, presented at the Manchester meeting:—

"That the Council be requested to consider the advisability of calling the attention of the proprietor of Stonehenge to the danger in which several of the stones are at the present time from the burrowing of rabbits, and also to the desirability of removing the wooden props which support the horizontal stone of one of the trilithons; and in view of the great value of Stonehenge as an ancient national monument, to express the hope of the Association that some steps will be taken to remedy these sources of danger to the stones."

The Council have carefully considered the question, and, having had the advantage of perusing the detailed report recently prepared by a deputation of the Wilts Archaeological and Natural History Society on the condition of the whole of the stones constituting Stonehenge, are of opinion that the proprietor should be approached with the expression of a hope that he will direct such steps to be taken as shall effectually prevent further damage.