3 inches in length containing a record of Dr. Nansen's work, dated May 19, 1896, the hut proving to be that in which Nansen had stayed. In the place of the document, Mr. Baldwin left a record by himself of his own work and visit.

During the period spent by the expedition in the far north, some fifteen balloons were released containing messages, addressed to the nearest American Consul, respecting both air and sea currents.

After an adventurous and trying journey, the expedition, on July 17, reached a place of safety to the southward of Cape Flora, and eventually home. In Mr. Baldwin's opinion, the old idea of an open Polar sea is baseless. "We know," he says, "that land extends as far as the 82nd degree on the Franz Josef Land side, and it is from here that I believe the Pole will be reached. I quite agree with Lieutenant Peary that the most practical way of attaining the Pole is by sledging from this point."

CONVENTION OF WEATHER BUREAU OFFICIALS.

ON August 27, 28 and 29 of last year, the second Convention of Weather Bureau Officials took place at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and we have recently received the report of the proceedings, which has been published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (*Bulletin* No. 31), being edited by Messrs. James Berry and W. F. R. Phillips under the direction of the chief of the Weather Bureau, Prof. Willis L. Moore. The report, which covers no less than 246 pages, will be found most interesting reading to meteorologists, for the numerous papers included in the seven sections of the volume refer to widely varied branches of work. To enter into anything like detail in this note is out of the question, but brief references may be made to a few of the papers read at this Convention.

Prof. Moore in his presidential address gave a brief survey of the weather service since its inception in 1870, showing its rapid growth and pointing out its increasing efficiency. "Fog Studies" was the subject of Prof. Alex. McAdie's paper, the author emphasising the point that fog "may be considered as a problem in *air drainage*, just as frost may be so considered." We reproduce one of the numerous excellent reproductions in the report with which he illustrated his remarks. Mr. E. J. Glass describes and illustrates the "chinook" winds so well known to those who live near the Rocky Mountains and which serve the useful purpose of storing the snow that supplies the water to the rivers during the summer season.

Amongst other papers of particular interest are those referring to "the forecaster and the newspaper," by Mr. Harvey Maitland Watts, who points out the great value newspapers can be in publishing popular and accurate meteorological information and timely warnings to their readers. Dr. Oliver Fassig gives the results of a study of the diurnal variations of the barometer, and demonstrates the westward movement of the daily barometric wave, portraying it excellently by means of a series of charts which accompany the paper. In the subsequent discussion, Prof. Moore refers to the paper as "quite unique and entitled to great consideration." "Lightning Recorders and their Utility in Forecasting Thunderstorms," "Meteorology in Colleges," &c., are among other subjects touched upon, and the volume concludes with a good index and a capital photograph of a group of the members present at this Convention. There seems no doubt that such gatherings are most useful and valuable, and Prof. Moore tells us that these two conventions have demonstrated their usefulness by affording exceptional opportunity for exchange of views and discussion of methods and means for advancing the work of the Weather Bureau.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE technical schools and colleges throughout London are now beginning their winter's work. An examination of a batch of prospectuses which has reached us shows that year by year there is an increasing amount of attention paid to the varied wants of students engaged throughout the day in different industries. At the Battersea Polytechnic, for example, we notice that in addition to the lectures and laboratory work in inorganic, organic and physical chemistry, classes have been arranged in gas manufacture, in the manufacture of oils, fats, soaps and candles, in iron and steel analysis, in paper making and testing, and in the chemistry of the kitchen and laundry. The same thoroughness is shown in the departments concerned with the building, engineering and other trades. The prospectus of the Chelsea Polytechnic, over which Prof. Tomlinson, F.R.S., presides, is published in four volumes dealing respectively with the day colleges for men and women, the day school for boys and girls, and the evening classes. It would be difficult to name a subject, commercial or technical, in which no class is provided at Chelsea. Moreover, every stage is looked after; there are classes suitable for the apprentice, and yet arrangements have been made by which advanced students may engage in research work under the supervision of the principal.

FIG. 1.—Fog Pyramid. This photograph was taken by Prof. Alex. McAdie on July 30, 1900, at 7.15 p.m. The conditions were normal so far as temperature, humidity and wind are concerned at Mount Tamalpais. The view in the foreground is the town of Mill Valley. The apex of the fog pyramid was (it is estimated) about five miles from the camera. The fog in the background overlies the Golden Gate and the Bay of San Francisco. The formation is peculiar, and it should be noted that the land under the fog pyramid is level, and the uplifting of the fog is not due to the existence of foothills at this point.