

was agreed that a resolution on the policy of the society should be circularised among the members for consideration before the next meeting, which is to be held in Sheffield on June 19. Before the meeting the members enjoyed a visit to Messrs. Ediswan, Ltd., at Ponders End.

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH.

THE report of the Astronomer Royal to the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, was read at the annual visitation of the Observatory on Saturday, June 1. The subjoined extracts are from the report.

Greenwich Catalogue.

Advantage is being taken of the delay in the printing of the Greenwich catalogue of 12,000 stars for 1910 to insert the type of spectrum as well as the magnitude of the star on the Harvard scale. This has been made possible by the kindness of Prof. Pickering, who is supplying, partly in manuscript and partly in early proofs, the results of Miss Cannon's survey at Harvard College. Discussions of some points connected with the proper motions of the stars in this catalogue have been communicated to the Royal Astronomical Society, and others are in progress.

Heliographic Observations.

In the year ended May 10, 1918, photographs of the sun were obtained on 209 days. The transmission to England of the solar photographs taken at the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope, has been suspended for the present, the last originals received being those for February, 1917, and the last duplicates those for the month previous. Similarly, no application has been yet made for photographs taken at the Indian observatories of Kodaikanal and Dehra Dûn to fill up gaps in the combined Greenwich-Cape record. The days in 1917 left without representation in the combined record are only nine in number, and for eight of these days photographs taken at Kodaikanal are available; the only date in 1917 still without a photograph being March 12.

H.M. Astronomer at the Cape has reported that the sun was successfully photographed there on 333 days in the year 1917, and on every day in January, 1918. The director of the Kodaikanal Observatory has reported that the regular series of photographs of the sun was recommenced there on April 1, 1917, and that plates were taken on 248 days out of the 275 of the nine remaining months of the year.

During the whole of the period covered by this report the spot-activity has been considerable, but it reached a remarkable development during August, 1917, the mean daily spotted area during the second week of that month being the highest as yet registered in the Greenwich photographic record. No disturbance comparable with this has occurred since, but considerable secondary maxima, with total spotted areas of more than 1000 millionths of the sun's visible hemisphere, were observed in September and December, 1917, and in February and March, 1918.

Magnetic Observations.

The mean values of the magnetic elements for 1917 and three previous years are as follows:—

	Dec. W.	Hor. force	Vert. force	Dip
1914 ...	15 6.3	0.18518	0.43317	66° 51.2
1915 ...	14 56.5	0.18508	0.43315	51.8
1916 ...	46.9	0.18494	0.43313	52.7
1917 ...	37.0	0.18477	0.43305	53.6

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The annual diminution of declination increased considerably about 1910, its average value from 1900 to 1910 being 4.9'. The horizontal force, which had been increasing since measurements were begun at Greenwich in 1846, reached a maximum about 1910, and is now diminishing. The dip, which has been diminishing since measurements were begun in 1843, reached a minimum about 1913, and is now increasing.

There were no days of great magnetic disturbance in 1917, but four were classified as of lesser disturbance. Traces of the photographic curves for these days will be published in the annual volume.

Meteorological Observations.

The following details of the weather refer to the year ended April 30, 1918. The mean temperature was 50.0°, or 0.4° above the average of the seventy-five years, 1841-1915. The highest temperature in the shade was 93.2° on June 17, and the temperature exceeded 80° on fifteen days. The lowest temperature was 17.2° on December 19, and on fifty-three days fell as low as 32.0°.

The mean daily horizontal movement of the air was 298 miles, which is fourteen miles above the average of the previous fifty years. The greatest daily movement, 767 miles, was recorded on November 24, and the least, forty-seven miles, on December 20. The greatest recorded pressure on the square foot was 18.8 lb., on October 25; the greatest velocity in one hour, forty-six miles, was registered on the same day.

The duration of bright sunshine registered by the Campbell-Stokes instrument was 1668 hours out of a possible 4456 hours, or 36.1 per cent. January provided more and April less than any corresponding month since the present instrument was set up in 1897.

The rainfall was 28.06 in., or 3.82 in. above the average for the period 1841-1915. The number of rainy days (0.005 in. or over) was 156. March, with 0.97 in., was the driest, and August, with 4.56 in., the wettest month.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

By the will of Dr. E. A. Letts, professor of chemistry in Queen's University, Belfast, who died in February last, his collection of minerals is bequeathed to Queen's University, and, on the death of his wife, 2100l. for the endowment of a scholarship in the University.

MR. JOHN OWENS, of Chester, has been authorised by certain friends to offer the University of Wales on their behalf 10,000l. war stock towards the establishment of a music directorship on the lines indicated in the report of the Royal Commission on University Education in Wales.

THE Education Bill and eugenics is the subject of an article by Mr. Wm. C. Marshall in the *Eugenics Review* for April (vol. x., No. 1). Mr. Marshall believes that the Bill bids fair, if loyally carried out, to satisfy the requirements of the intelligent artisan, and to assure him that he can in the future count on obtaining for any of his children, inheriting his qualities and reared under his care and supervision, an education which will assure their position in the industrial world. On these grounds the conclusion is that the Bill should be cordially welcomed by eugenists.

INTERESTING and instructive statistics concerning the growth of secondary education in England and Wales are contained in the Report of the Board of Education for the year 1916-17 (Cd. 9045). The total number of secondary schools in England regarded by the