LETTERS TO EDITOR

DISCONTINUANCE OF CO-OPERATION IN MAGNETIC WORK WITH THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Previous to the departure of the "Discovery" to the Antarctic, it was arranged here by Mr. Bernacchi, in charge of the magnetographs of the "Discovery," and Dr. Farr of this observatory, with the approval of Captain Scott, that magnetograph records at quick speed should be made for twenty-four hours on the first and fifteenth of the month until the return of the Expedition. Several observatories undertook to co-operate in this work. Mr. Bernacchi writes that he has been able to do this so far while in winter quarters, but in consequence of his supply of fast photographic paper being insufficient, he will not be able to continue these records this winter. The co-operating observatories, Mauritius, Batavia, De Bilt, and Kew, have been advised of this and asked to discontinue likewise.

HENRY F. SKEY.

Pro Dr. C. C. FARR.

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND,
MAY 5, 1903.

CONTINUANCE OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN RAPID REGISTRATIONS DURING SPECIAL TERMS.

Although the program for international co-operation in connection with the Antarctic Expeditions, as published,¹ terminated on Feb. 15, last, it was deemed best, in the absence of official advice, by the Coast and Geodetic Survey magnetic observatories to continue the work, as outlined for the 1st and 15th of each month, a little while longer. An official inquiry was directed to the German Government through the German Embassy at Washington to which after several months a reply was received to the effect that the German Government would be glad to have the United States observatories co-operate for another year and that the work was to be timed and arranged in accordance with the program for the period February 1, 1902, to February 15, 1903.

Dr. Schmidt, in charge of the Potsdam magnetic observatory, replying to an inquiry from the Editor of the Journal briefly writes: "The Potsdam observatory on June 1st will resume the special term observations, beginning with rapid registration one-half hour before the required hour and continuing until one-half hour after the hour, hence for two hours—

¹ See T. M., Vol. VI, p. 49.

thus beginning on June 1st, rapid registration from 7^h 30^m to 9^h 30^m a. m., Greenwich mean time, June 15th, from 8^h 30^m to 10^h 30^m, etc., etc. I shall continue the observations as long as it is done at other observatories."

In accordance with this advice, the Coast and Geodetic Survey is at present carrying on rapid registration work on the 1st and 15th of each month at its five observatories—Cheltenham (Maryland) Baldwin, (Kansas), Sitka (Alaska), near Honolulu (Hawaiian Islands), and Vieques Island (Porto Rico).

In conclusion, I may remark from certain experiences during the past year with regard to getting necessary information promptly that international work can be conducted much more satisfactorily through individuals, or well-known committees, than through government embassies.

L. A. BAUER.

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

CONCERNING OBSERVATIONS OF TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM
AND CLOUDS CARRIED OUT AT NORWEGIAN STATIONS
DURING THE YEARS 1902-1903.

The observations carried out at two of the Norwegian Northern-Light Expedition's stations, Dyrefjord in Iceland, and Bossekop in Finmark, have lately been concluded, but the work will be continued at the stations in Novaya Zemlya, and Spitzbergen, until the end of June.

Even now, by comparing the daily magnetic photograms obtained at Dyrefjord, and Bossekop, with those of earth currents from the latter, extremely interesting results have been obtained.

It was in order to solve, in the best possible manner, the problem placed before us, viz., the determination of the connection existing between terrestrial magnetic perturbations, aurora borealis, and cirrus clouds, that I, in a circular dated May, 1902,¹ took the liberty of requesting your kind assistance. In order to obtain the most complete collective views of the matter, it is necessary to procure copies of a certain number of the daily recorded photograms of magnetic variations, if possible, from all quarters of the globe.

After comparing photograms from Bossekop with corresponding ones from Potsdam, I selected thirty days, on which general magnetic disturbance was great, as those which most suited my purpose, and I have, consequently, determined to adopt these as the basis of my investigations. I now take the liberty of asking all those who are in a position to do so, to give or lend me copies—photographic preferred—of photograms of magnetic disturbances that may have occurred on those thirty days, and urge them, in the interests of science, not to mind facing the considerable amount of trouble which must be undertaken in order to fill such a

¹ See T. M. Vol. VIII.