

complete study of the climate of Cairo, using the observations made at the observatory for the twenty-one years, 1868-1888. Monthly bulletins were issued up to October, 1898, and in February, 1899, the observatory was transferred to the Survey Department, Public Works Ministry. In 1900 this department issued 'A Report on the Meteorological Observations made at the Abbassia Observatory, Cairo, during the years 1898 and 1899.' This report included the mean values derived from the observations of the previous thirty years, and was very fully illustrated by means of plates showing the mean daily and annual variations of the different weather elements. The work at the observatory has been carried on under the direction of Captain H. G. Lyons, R.E., Director-General of the Survey Department. Recently (1902) there has been issued a second 'Report on the Meteorological Observations made at the Abbassia Observatory, Cairo,' including the observations of the year 1900, together with the Alexandria means derived from the observations of the previous ten years. Eye readings made every three hours have been replaced by self-recording instruments. Meteorological stations have been established at Port Said, the Barrage, Assiut and Aswan. The diurnal and annual variations of the different weather elements are illustrated by means of numerous curves.

The Abbassia Observatory, and the cooperating stations, under the wise direction of Captain Lyons, are carrying on a valuable work in a country whose meteorology has always been of the greatest interest, and in which increasing numbers of Americans seek health during the winter months.

THUNDERSTORMS AND THE MOON.

In *Popular Astronomy* for June, Professor William H. Pickering summarizes some published statistics of thunderstorm occurrence in relation to the moon's phases, using data collected by Polis, van der Stok, Köppen, Hazen and others. The conclusion reached is that there really is a greater number of thunderstorms in the first half of the lunar

month than in the last half, and also that the liability to storms is greatest between new moon and first quarter and least between full moon and last quarter. The difference is, however, not large enough to be of any practical importance.

RAIN AND DUST FALL IN EDINBURGH IN 1902.

In the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* (XXIX., 1903, p. 134) Dr. W. G. Black gives the results of his catch of dust and soot in the central district of Edinburgh during the year 1902. The fall of dust and soot in an open dish or gauge of 75 square inches amounted to 2 ounces, giving 3.8 ounces per square foot, or about 24 pounds for every 100 square feet.

R. DEC. WARD.

NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL PARK.

THE Zoological Society has recently received at the Zoological Park the following interesting animals, as reported by Director Hornaday: (1) A bear cub, six months old, collected at Port Muller Bay, Alaskan Peninsula, and evidently representing a species recently described as Merriam's Bear (*Ursus merriami*); this is probably the first specimen of its species to come into captivity. It is of a uniform bluish-gray color, quite different in appearance from all other bears that have thus far been received from Alaska by the Zoological Society. (2) Mr. Charles Sheldon has succeeded, after more than two years of constant effort, in securing a grizzly bear cub from Mexico. A fine young specimen, which, in spite of its black coat, is evidently a grizzly, arrived on July 15, from Mexico, as a gift from Mr. Sheldon. If this animal really is a grizzly, it represents the most southern form of that group of bears. (3) A Clouded Leopard (*Felis nebulosa*) was brought to the society by Captain Golding, from Singapore. This is a full-grown specimen, and at the proper time will be placed on exhibition in the Small Mammal House. (4) A fine half-grown specimen of the Siamang (*Hylobates syndactylus*), received from Captain Golding, is, in all probability, the first representative of its species to reach America alive. It is

a large black gibbon, with web fingers and a large air-sac, or pouch, under the throat. This specimen is in good health, and in zoological collections it even surpasses the gorilla in rarity. (5) A large and very fine specimen of the Tcheli Monkey (*Macacus tcheliensis*), of northern China, was also brought by Captain Golding. Its nearest relative is the Japanese red-faced monkey. Like the latter, it is a shaggy-haired and hardy animal. (6) A fine adult specimen of the Great White Heron (*Herodias egretta*), recently received from Miami, Florida, is probably the only captive representative of its species alive in North America. It was acquired by purchase, and reached the Park in perfect health. (7) Two specimens of the so-called 'Giant Bear' of Corea have been purchased by cable of Mr. Hagenbeck for one of the new bear dens, and will be shipped to the park very shortly.

H. F. O.

THE LISTER INSTITUTE.*

IN 1896, the centenary of Jenner's crucial experiment in proof of the efficacy of vaccination, a movement was started at St. George's Hospital to perpetuate his name by some suitable national memorial. It was decided that it should be associated with the then newly-established British Institute of Preventive Medicine, the form which it was to take being left to be determined by the Council of the Institute, according to the amount of money which might be raised. It was determined that if this amount should be so large as to place the funds of the Institute in a thoroughly satisfactory position, the name should be changed to the Jenner Institute; if the sum proved to be considerable, but less than enough for this purpose, it was to be applied to the endowment of a Jenner professorship, while if a still smaller amount were obtained it was to be devoted to founding a Jenner scholarship. The sum actually raised proved not more than adequate for the founding of a scholarship, but the Council of the Institute wishing to honor the pioneer of preventive medicine, resolved that the name of

the institute should be changed. Afterwards, however, it was found that there already existed in London a commercial firm trading under the name of the Jenner Institute for calf lymph, and that it had a prior claim to the name of Jenner Institute. It was hoped, however, that as the Institute of Preventive Medicine was not preparing calf lymph, and in fact had agreed with the proprietor of the other institute not to do so while it retained a similar name, no confusion between the two would arise. This hope, however, was falsified as the two institutes were frequently supposed to be one and the same to the inconvenience of both. The mistake acquired additional probability from the fact that the local government board rented certain laboratories in the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine wherein the government staff prepared the lymph issued to public vaccinators. The governing body, finding the inconvenience so great, apart from the restriction mentioned above, and all efforts to meet the difficulty having failed, have determined again to change the name of the institute. The Jenner memorial committee has acquiesced with regret, and it has been agreed that its contribution shall remain invested in a Jenner memorial studentship in the institute under its new name. The governing body proposes that the institute shall in future be called the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine. The name has, we are informed, been chosen against Lord Lister's own strong personal wish; but we believe that the profession and the public at large will agree with the governing body in thinking that no name could more appropriately be identified with the institute than that of the founder of antiseptic surgery. The proposed change has the approval of Lord Iveagh, whose munificent endowment of the institute was made just after the previous change had been effected; indeed, we are informed that it is no secret that, had it not been for that change, Lord Iveagh would then have suggested that the British Institute should be definitely associated with the name of Lister, as the similar institute in Paris is with the name of Pasteur.

* From the *British Medical Journal*.