

the "intimate connection between hydrospheric and atmospheric events in nature, and to the virtual identity of dynamic methods and theory in Meteorology and Oceanography". The six contributions appearing in the first number are equally divided between physical and biological subjects, and include an article on evaporation from the oceans by H. U. Sverdrup, now director of the Scripps Institute, on seasonal variations in the water of San Juan Channel, and on a survey off the mouth of the Mississippi, showing effects of river water and the distribution of phytoplankton.

Medical Milestones

UNDER this heading, the *Medical Record* of New York for January 5 mentions the following notable events in the history of medicine which occurred in the course of 1838: foundation of the University of Messina, which later developed a remarkable medical curriculum, and of the Medical College of Richmond, Virginia; publication by Malgaigne of his treatise on experimental surgery and by Johannes Müller of his treatise on tumours; the first accurate description of pulmonary tuberculosis by Corrigan; performance by Mettauer of the first operation for vesico-vaginal fistula; description by Southwood Smith of conditions, especially fevers, among the poor in London in his reports to Parliament, and the foundation of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital of London.

Anti-Rabic Treatment in Southern India

THE director, Major Iyengar, in his annual report for 1936 of the work of the Pasteur Institute of Southern India, Coonoor, states that 493 patients underwent a full course of treatment, an increase of 60 compared with the previous year. For the fourth time during the thirty years of its existence, no deaths occurred from hydrophobia among those treated at the Institute. In addition to the treatment at the Institute, 15,302 courses of anti-rabic vaccine were issued for use at out-centres. Semple's carbolized sheep vaccine was in use, prepared from Paris fixed virus, which was in its 978th passage at the close of the year. In addition to human beings, 659 animals also received anti-rabic treatment during the year.

The Day Lily

MEMBERS of the genus *Hemerocallis* enjoy an increasing popularity as garden plants. The name signifies 'beauty for a day', and is a reliable description for individual flowers. The plant, however, maintains a succession of bloom, and is tolerant of a wide variety of cultural conditions. Mr. G. P. Baker has prepared a short monograph of the genus (*J. Roy. Hort. Soc.*, 62, 9, 399-411, Sept. 1937). A historical summary traces the early references to *Hemerocallis flava* from the time of Dioscorides, whilst the modern uses of the plant as medicine and as a flavouring in China, are set forth. Detailed descriptions of fourteen species and their variants impart much knowledge for the gardener.

Société des Amis de Paul Painlevé

THE late Paul Painlevé made a place for himself in contemporary history not only as a great mathematician but also as a statesman of conspicuous ability. A collection of his essays and speeches are gathered together in book form (price 20 francs), and published by the "Société des Amis de Paul Painlevé", which has for its aims the cultivation of his memory and of his scientific and democratic ideals, and eventually the publication of his papers. This association has issued an appeal to all the friends of Painlevé throughout the world, and will particularly welcome adherents from Great Britain (minimum subscription, 1s. 6d. a year). The chairman of this organization is M. Pierre Appell (3 rue du Vieux Colombier, Paris), who was one of the closest collaborators of the great French statesman.

Medical Men in Austria

WE have received the following communication from the Medical Peace Mission, 12 Kent Terrace, Park Road, London, N.W.1, signed by eighteen distinguished British medical men: "In view of recent events, we desire to express our alarm at the possible fate of our colleagues in Austria. There are in that country many revered physicians and surgeons who are likely to fall into disfavour with the National Socialist Government either on account of their medical or social views or on account of their belonging to the Jewish race. Judging from what has happened in Germany in the past, we are afraid that serious discrimination will be exercised against them and that even the chance to leave a country which is no longer hospitable to them may be refused. We beg our colleagues in all countries to watch the progress of events with the closest attention and to do all in their power, whether by public protest or by public or private assistance, to stand by any members of our profession who may suffer hardship under the new régime."

The Night Sky in April

Full moon occurs on April 14 at 18.3^h and new moon on April 30 at 5.5^h U.T. No stars brighter than mag. 6.1 are occulted during the month; for particulars of the seven occultations visible from Greenwich, see page 526 of the "Nautical Almanac". Lunar conjunctions with the planets occur as follows: on April 1^d 23^h with Venus: April 2^d 6^h with Mercury: April 3^d 8^h with Mars: April 25^d 2^h with Jupiter and April 28^d 11^h with Saturn. On April 8^d 16^h, Mercury and Venus are in conjunction, and on April 15^d 20^h Venus and Uranus, Venus being only 0.1° north of Uranus (geocentric positions). Venus and Mars are both evening stars; Mercury is an evening star until April 21, and at greatest eastern elongation on April 2. On April 1 at about 19^h, the moon's slender crescent and the planet Venus will be nearly at the same altitude low in the western sky. In mid-April at 22^h, Orion will have nearly set in the west, but Procyon, Castor and Pollux still remain. Capella in the north-west balances Vega in the north-east. The