

MEXICAN CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA.

Through the kind cooperation of Señor Mariano Bárcena, Director, and Señor José Zendejas, vice-director, of the Central Meteorologico-Magnetic Observatory, the monthly summaries of Mexican data are now communicated in manuscript, in advance of their publication in the *Boletín Mensual*; an abstract translated into English measures is here given in continuation of the similar tables published in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW during 1896. The altitudes occasionally differ from those heretofore published, but no reason has been assigned for these changes. The barometric means have not been reduced to standard gravity, but this correction will be given at some future date when the pressures are published on our Chart III.

Mexican data for June, 1897.

Stations.	Altitude.	Mean barometer.	Temperature.			Relative humidity.	Precipitation.	Prevailing direction.	
			Max.	Min.	Mean.			Wind.	Cloud.
Barronsee (Coahuila).	5,413	28.99	86.9	66.4	76.7	2.36	.....	.....
Carneros (Coahuila).	.....	.....	85.3	59.0	76.5	3.74	.....	.....
Culliacan	112	29.87	88.6	73.5	86.4	0.37	w.	e.	
Guajuato	6,761	28.67	91.3	55.0	69.4	6.39	ene.	ne.	
Leon	5,934	30.34	91.2	56.3	73.9	5.56	ene, ese.	ene.	
Linares	1,188	.....	99.0	66.2	83.3	1.26	ese.	.....
Magdalena (Sonora).	4,948	.....	97.9	72.0	82.8	.....	sw.	n.
Merida	50	29.89	101.1	71.2	82.4	3.63	e.	e.	
Mexico (Obs. Cent.).	7,472	23.07	84.2	50.4	64.6	66	nw.	ne.	
Mexico (E. N. de S.).	.....	23.09	84.2	47.3	62.4	60	sw.	.....
Monclova .....	.....	.....	104.4	64.8	86.5	1.77	.....	.....
Morelia (Seminario)	6,401	23.96	78.3	53.2	64.4	4.79	sw.	ne.	
Oaxaca	5,164	25.06	90.7	55.3	73.0	9.93	nw.	ne.	
Parras (Coahuila).	3,986	.....	97.7	66.6	80.1	4.92	.....	.....
Puebla (Col. Cat.).	7,112	23.37	81.7	53.6	66.6	71	e.	nw.	
Queretaro	6,070	24.17	86.4	55.6	70.0	59	e. ene.	.....
San Luis Potosí	5,399	24.76	97.0	59.9	74.1	1.61	s.	.....
Sierra Mojada (Coah)	6,302	24.13	85.1	56.7	69.4	60	e.	e.	
Silao	6,063	24.24	85.1	64.0	73.6	61	e.	w.	
Toluca	8,612	21.91	77.9	46.4	61.5	3.58	ese.	ne.	
Torrón (Coahuila).	3,730	.....	107.6	68.4	88.7	4.53	.....	.....
Trejo (H. d. S. Gto.).	6,011	.....	.....	.....	.....	3.60	ne.	.....
Tuxtla Gutiérrez	1,864	28.06	88.6	66.2	78.6	21	10.83	nw. nnw.	
Zacatecas	8,015	22.53	84.0	47.1	65.7	54	7.06	e.	
Zapotlan (Seminario)	5,078	25.06	90.0	58.6	73.6	33	8.81	se.	

Mexican data for April, 1897.

Stations.	Altitude.	Mean barometer.	Temperature.			Relative humidity.	Precipitation.	Prevailing direction.	
			Max.	Min.	Mean.			Wind.	Cloud.
Aguascalientes	5,119	23.84	85.6	41.7	64.4	21	0.00	w.	se.
Baronsee (Coahuila).	5,413	.....	84.2	47.3	73.4	.....	0.39	.....	.....
Carneros (Coahuila).	.....	.....	89.7	47.1	61.9	.....	0.98	.....	.....
Collima (Seminario)	1,656	28.37	96.8	55.0	75.4	55	0.00	sw.	w.
Collima .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78.8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Culliacan	112	29.71	95.0	58.1	78.3	47	0.00	w.	e.
Guadalajara (O. d. E.).	5,186	24.97	92.1	50.2	73.3	94	.....	sw., nw.	sw.
Guajuato	6,761	28.67	89.1	51.3	70.2	31	0.26	ws.	sw.
Jame (Coahuila).	.....	.....	80.1	29.7	56.3	.....	T.	.....	.....
Lagos	6,375	24.13	84.4	51.1	68.7	34	T.	nw.	nw.
Leon	5,934	30.28	89.6	49.3	71.4	27	0.02	ws.	sw.
Magdalena (Sonora).	4,948	.....	90.0	50.0	72.1	.....	0.00	n.	n.
Mazatlan	25	29.92	81.9	63.7	78.8	78	0.00	nw.	sw.
Merida	50	29.92	102.2	63.7	81.5	63	0.52	se.	w.
Mexico (Obs. Cent.).	7,472	23.00	85.6	45.5	65.5	43	1.22	nw.	sw.
Mexico (E. N. de S.).	.....	23.03	83.3	46.0	62.6	40	1.23	nw.	sw.
Monterey	1,626	28.13	96.8	45.5	74.1	57	0.38	ne.	ne.
Morelia (Seminario)	6,401	23.97	86.7	52.0	68.9	41	0.00	sw.	e.
Oaxaca	5,164	25.05	94.8	46.8	74.5	55	1.21	ese.	sw.
Pachuca	7,956	22.56	82.5	39.9	62.1	47	0.46	nne.	.....
Parras (Coahuila).	3,986	.....	92.3	50.5	70.0	.....	0.79	.....	.....
Pareta, La. (Coahuila)	.....	.....	99.7	52.3	75.6	.....	T.	.....	.....
Puebla (Col. Cat.).	7,112	23.36	86.0	45.3	69.4	45	0.41	e.	sw.
Saltillo (Col. S. Juan)	5,399	24.78	91.6	44.2	66.4	51	0.39	n.	sw.
Silao	6,063	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sierra Mojada (Coah)	.....	.....	88.5	53.8	67.5	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tacubaya (Obs. Nac.)	7,630	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tampico (Hos. Mil.).	85	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tehuacan	5,453	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Toluca	8,612	21.91	80.8	41.2	61.2	42	0.24	w., se.	.....
Zacatecas	8,015	22.53	82.4	41.0	64.6	39	0.00	sw.	w.
Zapotlan (Seminario)	5,078	25.06	90.0	50.0	74.5	36	T.	ese.	sw.

SEISMOGRAPHS AT METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS.

In order to disabuse the public mind as to the connection between the weather and earthquakes and in order to show

that the study and prediction of earthquakes may become practicable under the guidance of expert geologists, it is desirable that, at least temporarily, there be established self-registering seismographs and seismoscopes under the care of reliable physicists and painstaking meteorological observers. The physicists may establish and care for the complex seismographs, but the meteorological observers can easily look after the seismoscopes as they are comparatively simple.

As Professor Marvin's form of self-registering apparatus is simple and has stood the test of actual use for several years, there can be no doubt but that it is eminently adapted to its purpose and worthy of wide dissemination. The seismoscope, the clock, the recording cylinder, and the installation would probably cost about \$150.

CLIMATE AND CRIME.

The public press has lately given much attention to the subject of the relation between weather and crime. This seems to have started with a private communication from some Weather Bureau observer and has greatly interested every one. A preliminary collection of statistics seems to indicate that crime is more prevalent in hot weather.

The Chief of the Weather Bureau has expressed his opinion that it is utterly wild to contemplate at present the possibility of issuing predictions of prevalence of crime, and he has no intention of attempting it. In fact, there is no official investigation of the subject being made or contemplated in the Weather Bureau and no legal authority for doing so, even if it were considered desirable, which it is not. The statistics of disease have generally shown a very broad connection between climate and disease and the investigation of that subject is ordered by Congress, but that has no official connection with crime. The discussion of such difficult subjects is a matter of the careful study of statistics by physicians, and any conclusions that may at first seem to be justified need to be checked by later investigations before they can be practically applied to the public welfare.

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR JAMAICA, W. I.

Through the kindness of Mr. Maxwell Hall, of Montego Bay, Jamaica, the meteorological service of that colony has acceded to the request of the Editor for the prompt communication of an abstract of the very interesting climatological records of that highly important West Indian station. The climatological summary for June, 1897, furnished by Mr. Hall through his assistant, J. F. Brennan, of the Meteorological Office, is reproduced in the following table. The stations therein mentioned have the following locations:

Stations.	Altitude.	Latitude.	Longitude.
Moran Point Lighthouse.....	Feet, 8	17 56	78 10
Negril Point Lighthouse.....	38	18 16	78 22
Kingston	50	17 58	78 48
Kings House	400	.....	.....
Castleton Gardens.....	580	18 13	78 50
Hope Gardens	600	.....	.....
Stony Hill Reformatory.....	1,400	.....	.....
Hill Gardens (Cinchona Plantation)	4,907	18 5	78 29

The stations King's House, Hope Gardens, and Stony Hill Reformatory, are near Kingston, and are not supplied with mercurial barometers. The barometric pressures as given for these Jamaica stations are reduced to the standard instrumental temperature (32° F.) and standard gravity (latitude 45° and sea level), and all except Hill Gardens are also reduced to sea level. The thermometers are exposed in Stevenson Screens, and their readings have been corrected for

instrumental errors. The wind movement is measured by Robinson anemometers, assuming the factor 3. The amount of cloud is given in tenths of the whole sky; the lower clouds are for the most part fracto-stratus; the middle clouds cumulus, and the upper clouds cirrus or cirro-stratus.

The observations at 7 a. m. and 3 p. m. at Kingston and Hill Gardens are also communicated in detail by Mr. Hall, but are not published at present, although eventually this may be done, as Hill Gardens is, like Blue Mountain, an interesting mountain station, for comparison with its near neighbors, Castleton Gardens and Kingston. The direction of the wind at the upper station is only given in general terms for the day, and is, in general, east-southeast, while at Kingston it is south-southeast.

The general direction of the middle clouds, as observed at 7 a. m. and 3 p. m., at Kingston, is southeast, but the velocity at the upper station is so much less than at the lower, viz, 19 miles as compared with 119, that one must infer that the upper station is greatly sheltered from the free wind by the summit of the hill above it which is said to attain an attitude of about 6,300 feet. If a mountain summit station can be obtained this also will be published. Many details with regard to the climate of Jamaica will be found in Mr. Hall's contributions to the official handbook published by the Government of that island in 1881.

The important mutual relations between the meteorology of the West Indies and the southern portion of the United States must stimulate the study of these records from Jamaica.

Jamaica, W. I., climatological data, June, 1897.

	Morant Point Lighthouse.	Negril Point Lighthouse.	Kingston.	Kings House.	Castleton Gardens.	Hope Gardens.	Stony Hill Reformatory.	Hill Gardens (Ch. Plant).
Elevation (feet).....	8	33	50	400	580	600	1,400	4,907
Mean barometer { 7 a. m.....	29.940	29.955	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29.258
{ 3 p. m.....	29.912	29.907	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29.282
Mean temperature { 7 a. m.....	79.2	79.3	74.5	73.0	74.3	73.0	68.5	.....
{ 3 p. m.....	88.3	86.5	88.1	84.5	86.7	81.6	87.6	.....
Mean of maximum.....	87.6	89.1	92.6	89.1	89.9	84.8	71.0	.....
Mean of minimum.....	78.0	74.5	67.6	64.7	69.5	67.8	59.0	.....
Highest maximum.....	90	92	98	92	95	89	76	.....
Lowest minimum.....	71	72	66	63	68	66	57	.....
Mean dew-point { 7 a. m.....	72.3	70.0	70.8	69.8	69.9	69.0	56.8	.....
{ 3 p. m.....	79.5	71.4	75.8	71.4	71.6	73.6	62.2	.....
Mean relative humidity { 7 a. m.....	75	73	87	90	87	87	83	.....
{ 3 p. m.....	78	61	67	62	61	77	81	.....
Monthly rainfall (inches).....	4.80	5.58	0.58	0.54	4.81	1.10	2.45	0.91
Average daily wind movement.....	225.8	119.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.6
Average wind direction { 7 a. m.....	n. e.	n.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ 3 p. m.....	var.	s. e.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Average hourly velocity { 7 a. m.....	6.5	1.4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ 3 p. m.....	12.2	9.2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Average cloudiness:								
7 a. m. { Lower clouds.....	0.7	0.5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Middle clouds.....	0.6	0.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Upper clouds.....	5.9	3.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3 p. m. { Lower clouds.....	5.6	1.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Middle clouds.....	2.6	1.2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
{ Upper clouds.....	0.5	3.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

HOT WINDS IN MISSOURI.

The voluntary observer, George Comly, at Willow Springs, Howell Co., Mo. (N. 37° 00', W. 91° 55'), under date of June 25, writes:

At 5:40 a. m. (probably central time) to-day, an exceedingly hot wave struck this place, lasting forty minutes, from the west, causing a rise in temperature of 20°, rising from 65° to 85° at 6:15, then going down again to 68° at 7 o'clock.

Somewhat similar occurrences have been recorded, not only over the greater portion of the Mississippi watershed, but in other parts of the world. At the time noted by Mr. Comly, Missouri and the adjacent country was covered by an area of cloud and rain. Northerly winds prevailed from northern

Missouri to Canada, and southerly winds prevailed from southern Missouri to the Gulf. A temperature of 65° F. prevailed to the north of Willow Springs, and a temperature of 80° prevailed at Little Rock and Fort Smith, or about 150 miles to the South. But a temperature of 85° does not appear in any region near by. It is not necessary to suppose that the hot wave observed by Mr. Comly was due to the strictly horizontal movement of hot air from some distant point. Such a motion, at the rate at which the wind was then blowing, or scarcely 10 miles an hour, would have consumed at least ten or fifteen hours to pass over the intervening territory, and would have been observed by many others besides Mr. Comly. The explanation of these local hot winds has been frequently given in connection with the Foehn winds of Switzerland, of Table Bay, the dry chinook of Montana, and the hot winds of Kansas. Any comparatively small mass of air that is rapidly descending warms up by compression faster than it can cool off by radiation, and when it reaches the earth's surface spreads out as a local hot wave. If the upper air is moving from the west and sends a portion down to the earth's surface, the latter will appear as a hot wave moving from the west. This descent and hot wave may occur at any time, morning, noon, or night, and at any season of the year, summer or winter, and is the proper explanation of many of the phenomena of oppressive hot weather that accompany thunderstorms, tornadoes, and all such storms as have their origin in rapid vertical movements, which have been called topsy-turvy movements by Chambers in his analysis of the climate of Madras. At Cape Town, South Africa, where a heavy southwest wind, blowing over Table Mountain, descends in whirling gusts upon the town and the bay, the Editor, in 1890, observed quite accurately and on many days at certain hours, the rapid movement of alternate gusty streaks of hot, dry, and cold, moist air. The latter streaks represented the air that had passed around the mountain or was resting quietly over the bay, while the hot streaks represented air that had descended rapidly from the top of the mountain, and which blew violently at the topmast of the vessel two or three seconds before it reached the observer on deck. The measured alternations of temperature were plus or minus 4° F. in three minutes of time, but owing to the internal sluggishness of the best thermometers it is certain that the actual alternations of temperature were much greater, and, in fact, the sensations of feeling seemed to the observer to correspond to sudden changes of at least 10°.

In thunderstorms of that class which consist of an advancing roll of air rising in the front and descending in the rear, one will almost always notice the sensation of heat for a short time after the storm has passed, and before the mass of cool, dry west wind has succeeded in pushing the thunderstorm area entirely away.

HOT WINDS IN KANSAS.

Mr. P. A. Pearson, postmaster at Kinsley, Kans. (N. 37° 50', W. 99° 20' and, therefore, about 30 miles east-northeast of the regular Weather Bureau station at Dodge City), communicates the following note:

On June 23, about 12:30 a. m., an oppressive hot wind from the north-west prevailed. One who faced the wind had to gasp for breath. After a few seconds there would be a calmness that can only be described as a deathly stillness, no less oppressive than the wind. At 1:20 a. m. the thermometer registered 94°; at 1:38, 91°; at 1:50, 80° F. I have no doubt but that the temperature between 12:30 and 12:40, when it was at its maximum, was as high as 115° or 120°.

There was a heavy bank of cloud southwest of Kinsley and I am of the opinion that a cyclone (tornado?) passed high above us. The board sidewalks were so hot that they burned the bare feet of those who stepped on them about the same as if in the hot sunshine of midday.

The local newspapers at Larned, Kans. (N. 38° 10', W. 99° 5', therefore, about 25 miles northeast of Kinsley), says: