During the year the profits of ocean and lake vessel property have been immense. The rates are high after the season of insurance expires. This fact tempts owners and sailors, who get high wages, to improve their opportunities to the utmost.

It would seem that in dangerous weather and after the close of the season for which marine insurance holds good, navigators, emboldened by the additional security that is offered by the Weather Bureau forecasts and warnings, willingly incur great risks. In so doing some make large profits, but many lose all. The community as a whole is not benefited by the loss of life and property. Those who take such risks as are forbidden by the rules of marine insurance may show great enterprise, but may also do more harm than good. They should be very sure that boats and machinery are not merely seaworthy, but storm proof.

THE WEATHER AND THE NEWSPAPERS.

The Editor received from San Francisco, Cal., a copy of the Bulletin of December 30, containing an article commenting severely upon the exaggerated and erroneous sensational articles in the New York papers of Friday, December 14, relative to the severe storm of wind and rain of that date in San Francisco. The Editor was also requested to protest against these absurd fakes that are typical of modern sensational journalism. Such stories certainly do no good to the community at large; they cultivate a taste for sensations and make the real phenomena of nature seem tame and uninteresting; they are analogous to the stories of hobgoblins, giants, ghosts, and other absurdities on which some nurses feed the minds of children. It seems incredible that full grown men and women need such stories and glaring headlines in order to induce them to buy a newspaper that does not really give reliable news. But it is not necessary for the Editor of the REVIEW to rebuke this class of newspapers; it would be a pleasanter duty if, ignoring them, he could recommend such papers as are thoroughly reliable. We have understood that there are some correspondents and news gatherers who can look at facts and write an account of them in well-chosen words of moderation without flights of fancy, and that there are some editors who can put these accounts in print without artistic embellishment in the way of misleading headlines. Newspapers of this character will certainly be preferred and patronized by the great majority of citizens. We have often been assured that proprietors, reporters, and readers all deplore this unhappy feature of modern journalism, and that it is the managing editors who are alone responsible for it.

THE FIRST NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS OF MEXICO.

This congress was to have been convened in the City of of Mexico on the 1st of November, 1900, under the auspices of the scientific society Antonio Alzate, and to continue its sessions several days. According to the circular of invitation issued by the officers of the society, the governors of the States, the directors of the observatories, institutes and schools, and all persons interested in the physics of the globe were invited to cooperate. The annual dues were to be $5, "in return for which members will receive the proceedings, acts, and memoirs of the congress." The principal points under discussion at this meeting were to be:

1. The selection and installation of the instruments.
2. The hours and methods of observation.
3. The publication of the results.
4. Practical methods for the organization of local meteorogical systems.

The sessions were to have been held in the building of the Alzate Society.

A full report of the proceedings of this meeting is not yet at hand, but the results will be laid before our readers as soon as received.

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES.

The use of the chronological cycles in order to ascertain the day of the week or the phase of the moon is almost a lost art because of the abundance of convenient calendars, almanacs, and other sources of information, but as these elements of the calendar are often put into very compact tables, it will occasionally be useful to the student of meteorology to keep in mind the following explanations and rules:

The Dominical letter is determined by giving to the first seven days of the year the letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G. If Sunday falls on the first then the letter is A; if on the second, it is B, and so on through the list. The whole scheme is simply equivalent to saying that the first day of the year falls on a certain day of the week. The golden number was formerly printed in figures of gold. In order to find the golden number, we add 1 to the year and divide by 19, the remainder is the golden number. Thus 2 is the golden number for the year 1901. The golden number simply expresses the fact that the new moon occurs on the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, . . . or the 19th day; whence the year is the 1st, . . . or the 19th in the cycle of nineteen years discovered by the old Greek astronomer Meton. In nineteen years the moon returns to almost the same position with regard to the sun and earth that it had at the beginning of that period. The error is only about two hours, so that if there is a full moon or a new moon to-night, there will be one nineteen years hence, as well as at every 19-year interval backward.

Epact signifies the number of days that elapsed between the preceding new moon and the beginning of the year, or the age of the moon on New Year's Day.

RELATIONS BETWEEN SUMMER AND WINTER TEMPERATURES.

According to the Baltimore American Dr. O. L. Fassig has made an interesting statistical investigation of the question whether there is any relation between the temperatures of successive summers and winters, whether, for instance, an extremely hot summer precedes a cold winter. Dr. Fassig has at his command an accurate daily record of weather in Baltimore, Md., from 1817 to the present time, beginning with the records kept by Capt. Lewis Brantz. Having computed the average summer temperature to be 75° and the average winter temperature to be 35° for the whole eighty-two years he finds that there were 22 summers whose average temperature exceeded 75°, and 26 that were appreciably colder than 75°; the remaining 34 summers had average temperatures within one degree of the normal. Of the 22 warm summers 11 were followed by cool winters and 8 by warm winters. Of the 26 cool summers, 12 were followed by cool winters and 10 by warm winters. Of the 34 normal summers, 17 were followed by cold winters and 14 by warm winters.

In general, therefore, this record shows that neither warm nor cold summers have any more relation to the succeeding winter temperatures than have the normal summers or, in general, there is no regular alternation or period in atmospheric temperatures.