little longer. These changes appear to be the result of turning on a lawn sprinkler near the shelter.

The following table shows the effect upon the air 4½ feet above the ground as a result of the action of a sprinkler throwing water to a height of 2 or 3 feet and continued long enough to soak the turf under the shelter.

Time.	Air temperature.	Relative humidity.	Vapor pressure.
	°F.	Per cent.	Inch.
12:10 p. m.	73.0	25	0.202
12:20 p. m.	69.0	40	0.283
12:30 p. m.	68.5	45	0.313

Although the sheets were removed from the recording instruments in about half an hour after the sprinkler was turned off and the lawn was still wet the traces show that the temperature and relative humidity in the shelter had resumed the conditions obtaining before the sprinkler was set near the shelter.

A REMARKABLE PERIODICITY OF HIGH ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE DURING WINTER IN THE ALPS.

Under the above title Dr. J. Maurer, director of the meteorological service of Switzerland, has just published[1] an account of a weather periodicity that promises to be of unusual interest and value.

It appears from this study that in Switzerland, according to the records of the past 50 years at Basil, Zurich, Geneva, and Lugano, the sums of the monthly pressure departures for November, December, and January, show a distinct periodicity of 8 years, with a range from maximum to minimum of, roughly, 20 millimeters. Additional Geneva records back to 1836, and Basil records to 1816, show that this 8-year period has persisted now with remarkable regularity for more than a century, and perhaps therefore very much longer.

The smoothed (apparently freely drawn) graph of the actual data is all that was used in arriving at the above conclusion. Indeed the maxima and minima are so pronounced, and so evenly spaced, as to make unnecessary, it is claimed, any special analysis, beyond mere inspection.

No cause for this special period is suggested, nor is obvious. But it indeed true it can hardly be an isolated phenomenon, and therefore should stimulate similar studies of pressure data in other parts of the world.—*W. J. H.*

[1] Archives des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles, Mai, 1918.