

transferred all its routine work of observation to the Weather Bureau, which then organized a New England weather service, under a director, as in other States, the society, however, maintaining its existence, for the holdings of meetings and the reading of papers, until April, 1896. Beginning with 1888, the work of the New England Meteorological Society was carried on in cooperation with the Harvard Observatory. The observations published in its *Annals* a portion of the regular observations taken by the members of the society, as well as the annual summaries, and a considerable series of important investigations carried out by officers and members of the society.<sup>2</sup> By this arrangement the cost of publishing the society's observations and investigations was materially lessened, and the *Annals* provided a more dignified and more permanent place of publication than could otherwise have been secured. The Harvard Observatory also equipped some of the society's stations.

Even after the transfer of the society's routine observation work to the Weather Bureau, the Harvard Observatory continued for two years to publish the annual report and summary of the New England Weather Service, and also, until the dissolution of the New England Meteorological Society, that organization's investigations were published in the *Observatory Annals*.

Prof. Pickering's services to meteorology were thus many and valuable, and extended over a long period of years. Few astronomers have contributed as much as he did toward its development. His interest in the progress of all science was keen and enthusiastic, but he had a special interest in meteorology, and never failed to support it when such support could be considered to be within the scope of his own responsibility as director of the Harvard Observatory.

#### WALTER GOULD DAVIS.<sup>1</sup>

By Prof. ROBERT DE C. WARD.

The meteorological service of the Argentine Republic will be the enduring monument of Walter Gould Davis, whose death on April 30, at his old homestead in Danville, Vt., removed one of the world's best-known and most highly respected meteorologists.

As a young man Mr. Davis went to Argentina to serve as assistant to Dr. Benjamin Apthorp Gould, who founded the Astronomical Observatory at Cordoba, and, in 1872, established the Argentine Meteorological Service. Dr. Gould continued in charge of this service until toward the end of 1884, when he left Argentina, and in 1885 Mr. Davis succeeded him as director, continuing in that position until his retirement in 1915, after 30 years of active work. Under Mr. Davis's able leadership, the Argentine Meteorological Service attained a position in the very front rank of government meteorological organizations. When he resigned his post, to secure well-deserved rest and to seek to regain his health in his own

country, the Argentine service extended over an area of nearly 3,000 miles in a north and south line, its southernmost station being in the South Orkney Islands, in latitude 60° 43' south. Over 2,000 stations were then cooperating in the work of taking meteorological and magnetic observations. The morning and evening observations from nearly 200 stations were being used in the construction of the daily weather map, in addition to the daily rainfall records from about 1,350 rainfall stations.

Mr. Davis was a tremendously keen, active, and progressive director. He was always well abreast of the times, and often was a pioneer in keeping ahead of the times. An illustration of his desire to have the organization under his control contribute in every possible way to the advancement of meteorological knowledge was his acquirement, in 1904, of the meteorological and magnetic station at Laurie Island, in the South Orkneys, which had originally been established by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition. Since 1904, this remote southern station has been operated, without a break in its records, as a part of the Argentine Meteorological Service. The personnel of this lonely outpost is relieved only once each year, when supplies are sent for the coming 12 months. The men are then completely isolated, without (at last accounts) any mail or cable communication, until the relief vessel returns the following year. Under these conditions of extreme loneliness and hardship, the observers at Laurie Island have maintained their observations for 15 years. This is a remarkable record of scientific work of the greatest importance in the study of world meteorology. In his Laurie Island station Mr. Davis always took great pride, and well he might do so.

Fully alive to all the needs of his service, Mr. Davis called to help him in his scientific work the best meteorologists whom he could find. From this country he secured, among others, Prof. F. H. Bigelow, formerly of the Weather Bureau, who has had charge of the magnetic work in Argentina, and Mr. H. H. Clayton, formerly of Blue Hill Observatory, and now chief of the Department of Forecasts in Buenos Aires.

The high quality of Mr. Davis's work was fully appreciated by his meteorological colleagues everywhere. His reputation as a meteorologist and as the successful administrative head of a large and remarkably efficient organization won for him a position on the International Meteorological Committee, the highest international authority on meteorology. This was a well-deserved recognition of the importance of his contributions to meteorology, and of his sound judgment on scientific matters.

The many publications of the Argentine Meteorological Service which were issued under Mr. Davis's direction constitute an inspiring record of splendid work, well planned, thoroughly organized, and ably carried out.

By the death of Walter Gould Davis the world has lost one of its most eminent meteorologists, and those of his colleagues who had the privilege of knowing him have lost a warm-hearted, sympathetic, and helpful friend.

<sup>2</sup>Among these investigations may be mentioned studies of the characteristics of New England climate, types of New England weather, the sea breeze, New England thunderstorms, the Lawrence tornado of 1890, the characteristics of tornadoes, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from the Boston Transcript, May 5, 1919.