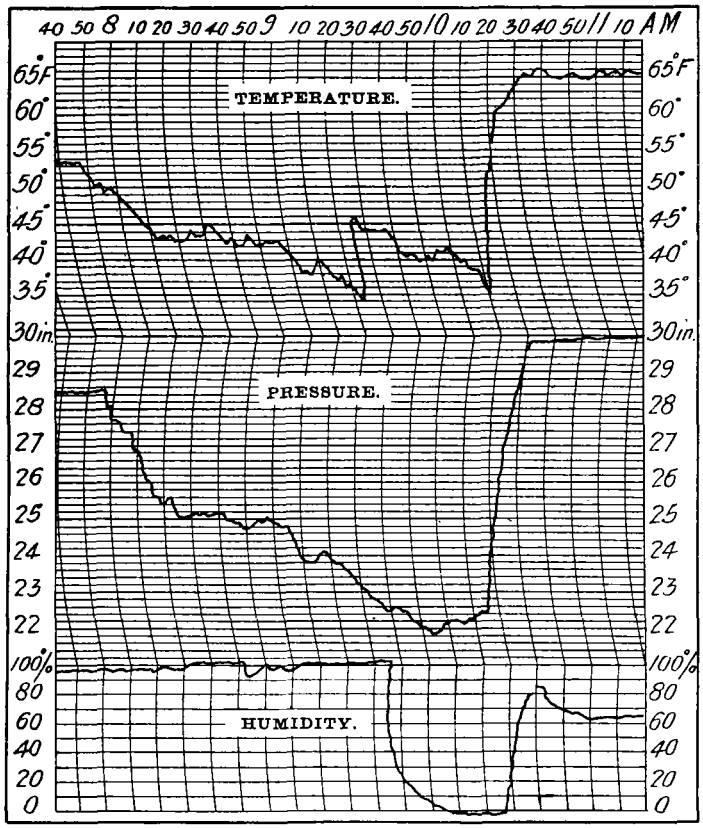

FIG. 1.—Meteorograph tracings for kite flight of April 5, 1906.

Kite flight at Mount Weather, Bluemont, Va., April 5, 1906.

At kite.						At station.					Remarks.
Time.	Above sea level.	Pressure.	Temperature.	Relative humidity.	Wind direction.	Pressure.	Temperature.	Relative humidity.	Wind. Dir.	Wind. Vel.	
a. m.	*Feet.*	*Ins.*	° *F.*	%		*Ins.*	° *F.*	%		*m. p. h.*	
7:47	1725	28.2	53	95	n w.	28.2	53	82	n w.	21	Cloudiness, 10 stratus, with occasional light sprinkling rain.
7:49	2155	27.8	51	96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
7:53	2565	27.2	49.5	97	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
7:56	2925	27.0	48.8	98	w-n w	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
8:00	3440	26.5	48	99	w.	28.2	52	....	n w.	15	
8:04	4210	25.8	46.5	99	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
8:10	4920	25.2	43	99	.....	.....	.....	.....	n.	.....	Kite entered scud; reappeared several times.
8:14	5260	24.9	42	100	.....	.....	52	....	n w.	9	
8:50	5580	24.7	41	98	w.	.....	53	85	....	.....	Second kite attached.
9:07	6590	23.9	37	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	First kite at base of clouds.
9:12	6200	23.7	39	100	.....	.....	53	....	n w.	9	
9:24	7330	22.6	34	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	First kite hidden at times by lower clouds.
9:29	8025	22.3	44	34	.....	.....	54	....	n w.	16	
9:37	8220	22.0	43.5	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
9:45	9000*	21.6	40	2	.....	.....	54	....	w.	12	
10:08	.....	22.2	38	0†	.....	28.15	55	...	n w.	12	Upper kite with meteorograph broke away while hidden by cl'ds.
10:22	.....	29.5	59.5	85	.....	.....	56	....	n w.	11	Landed in valley about 12 miles due east from station.

* Based on barograph tracing; other elevations based on angular elevation of kite and length of wire out. † A correction of 5 to 8 per cent should probably be applied to the lower portion of the scale of the hair hygrometer.

NOTE.—Number and kind of kites: 2 Hargrave-Marvin kites with a total lifting surface of 98 square feet. Station elevation, 1725 feet. Greatest elevation above station, 7300 feet. Greatest elevation above sea level, 9000 feet. Greatest length of wire out, 11000 feet

and the loss of the upper kite was then soon made evident. The kite broke away at an elevation of about 7000 feet above the station. It was found the following morning at a point in the valley about 12 miles due east from the observatory. The meteorograph traces showed clearly the time at which the kite broke away and the time at which it struck the ground; a difference of about eleven minutes indicates an average velocity of the kite after it broke away of over one mile per minute. The accident was due to the breaking of the steel wire at the point of attachment of the upper kite. In landing the second kite, the length of the line between the upper and lower kites (about 5000 feet) was stretched across the tops of the forest trees on the mountain side, and was reeled in without any difficulty and without loss. The upper kite landed upon some rocks in the valley, breaking some of the sticks; the instrument was not injured in the slightest degree, while the record was distinct and complete. The tracings of the meteorograph are reproduced in fig. 1.

WHERE ARE THE OLD RECORDS OF HAITI?

The efforts lately made by the Editor and his colleagues to collect and publish such data as we can, relative to the climate of Haiti, have led us to hope that we may recover the elaborate records kept in that country by its French residents between 1750 and the Napoleonic era. These records were collected most assiduously both by Cotte in Paris and by Moreau de St. Méry. The latter published extracts in his Description Topographique, printed at Philadelphia in 1797. The former published tabular data in full in the annual volumes of the Histoire de la Société royale de Médicine and also in his Météorologie, but he must have had large manuscript collections that are not yet published. The following letter from a member of the council of the Astronomical and Meteorological Society of Port au Prince shows that antiquarians may still hopefully search for these lost documents in New Orleans, La., in Philadelphia, Pa., and in France:

[Translation.]

PORT AU PRINCE, *August 24, 1905.*

CONSTANTIN,
Director of the Observatory of the Astronomical and Meteorological Society of Port au Prince.

MY DEAR BROTHER: In reply to your communication in regard to the meteorological observations of Le Febure des Hayes, made from 1772 to 1788 at Tivoli, or Tifoly, in the parish of Jeremie, I would say to you that I have already instituted a search on this same subject for Mr. Leger, our minister to Washington, but I found nothing.

If Mr. Le Febure des Hayes had willed his manuscript to the club of the Philadelphians and to the Royal Society of Sciences and Arts in the same town,[1] these papers should be in France. In 1803 the French, in evacuating the Cape, did not leave anything in the colony they were forced to abandon, but took with them all the archives of this portion of the French Empire.

The memoirs or studies, as far as published either by the Royal Society or by the club, may be found in New Orleans, La., and in Philadelphia, Pa.; these two American cities received a great many French people after the evacuation of Santo Domingo. In Europe everything relating to the old colonies will be found in the archives of Versailles; at the Academy of Sciences of Paris; at the Academy of Bordeaux; at Brussels, at Mr. Haylaerts's, who was formerly consul from Haiti to the residence in that city. I know that Mr. Haylaerts collected a great many documents relative to the ancient colony of Santo Domingo and to the independent state of Haiti. There were a great many works on Haiti at the Library of Americana, Rue Gusuégan. I do not know whether this establishment is still in existence. At Port au Prince there are a great many pamphlets, books, thin bound books, notes, and memoirs, in the library of the Little Seminary of St. Martial (Petit Séminaire St. Martial), to which Lieutenant Pradiness had confided a part of his collection.

I shall be happy if this information is of any use to the meteorological bureau at Washington. In this hope I beg you to accept, dear brother, the assurance of my most affectionate sentiments.

(Signed) JUSTIN BOUZON.

THE ZODIACAL LIGHT.

By Mr. MAXWELL HALL. Dated Montego Bay, Jamaica, W. I., February 12, 1906.

It is now thirty years since I first measured the breadth of the zodiacal light at various distances from the sun. The observations were made at Kempshot, Jamaica, at an elevation of about 1800 feet above sea level, and the results were pub-

[1] Le Cap or Cape Haïtien.