

like fibers extending from base and summit. From several measurements of the velocities of the shadows of these clouds the base was found to have a velocity of 15.0 meters per second, and the top about 17.8 or 18.0 meters per second (determined from the velocities of the rear and the front of the shadows respectively). These, combined with measurements of the angular velocity of the cloud, give an altitude of 1,820 meters for the base of the cloud above Blue Hill. The altitude, determined in another manner from the position of the cloud shadow and the angular altitude of the cloud, was calculated to be 2,200 meters above the hill."

#### SEVERE ICE STORM IN MICHIGAN.

The Weather Bureau storm-warning displayman at St. James, Beaver Island, Mich., Rev. Edward J. Jewell, reports that a severe ice storm visited his station at the close of January, 1916. He writes, in part, as follows:

During the night of January 27 a great weight of sleet accumulated [on the halyards of the steel storm-warning signal display tower] and the heavy wind drove them over—all four—to one side of the [steel] mast, bending the mast down almost upon the tower itself. The sleet crushed nearly all our most beautiful trees, quite stripping the pines of all branches. For days the clashing of trees was heard everywhere. We never saw such a fearful sleet. The halyards were over 4 inches in diameter. I could not shake off the ice. We have 2 inches of the ice sheet still on the ground (March 4). It has ruined seeding, sending frost down 5 feet into the ground, freezing up our water pipes. It heaved the house at night like an earthquake rocking it.

One of the halyards broke and fell after the pole was bent. All the damage was done before daylight. \* \* \* I saved the windmill by shooting the ice with a shotgun. The phone wires did not break, but the wires to Cross Village are down. I broke the ice from the wires when they became weighted down within reach. All the old wires broke on the old phone.

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#### ARTHUR WILLIAMS WRIGHT, 1836-1915.

Prof. Arthur Williams Wright (*b.* Sept. 8, 1836), who died at his home in New Haven, Conn., December 19, 1915, was the designer and founder of the first physical laboratory (as we now understand that institution) in the United States, viz, the first Sloane Physical Laboratory of Yale College. This laboratory was completed in 1883, and in 1884 it was one of three stations established under the direction of the Chief Signal Officer (Gen. W. B. Hazen) for the study of atmospheric electricity. Mr. Oliver L. Fassig was detailed to the station and carried on its work for nearly two years, until its discontinuance; but the work in atmospheric electricity was continued in the Sloane Laboratory and the observations have been one of the regular exercises of the students there.

Thanks to this enthusiasm the laboratory secured atmospheric potential observations just before and just after the eruption of Mont Pelée (May 8 and 9, 1902), and these observations were discussed by Prof. Wright in this REVIEW, June, 1905, 33:241-242.

Prof Wright contributed important papers on the zodiacal light, on the polarization of light from Coggia's comet, and on the gaseous contents of meteoric irons and stones. He was one of the very earliest in this country to repeat, verify, and extend Röntgen's discovery of the X-rays. An appreciative notice of his work is printed by Prof. Charles S. Hastings in "Science" (New York) for February 25, 1916.—C. A., jr.