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AIDS TO RAINFALL OBSERVERS.

THE exhaustion of the edition of "Rules for Rainfall Observers" has afforded an opportunity for revising the little pamphlet originally edited by Mr. Symons, and throwing the gradual growth of experience into a more systematic form. The rules have been added to as occasion required, but, like all gradual growths, the time arrived when a revision almost equivalent to re-writing was required to restore the symmetry of the first edition while retaining the improvements of the last. The time is rapidly approaching when the records of imperfectly constructed or ill-exposed gauges can be dispensed with as useless, and the time has come when no new gauge should be recognised as satisfactory unless both funnel and measuring-glass have been scientifically tested and certified as accurate. No high-class instrument maker objects to submit his work to such tests, and the few extra shillings required for a certificate purchase for the observer a sense of confidence in his instruments which is a continual satisfaction. The new edition of the Rules drops some of the cautions as to the use of gauges made of improper materials, such as japanned or tinned iron, and directs attention to the importance of using recording gauges whenever it is possible to do so.

In response to many requests, Dr. H. R. Mill has designed a Pocket Rain Register for the use of observers. It takes the form of a little book with rounded corners, daintily bound in linen, and measuring only $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The double page at each opening gives space for recording the daily rainfall for a month for from one to four gauges, and room is provided also for remarks on each day. The book is planned to last for a year and in addition to the blank pages contains instructions for using the forms provided for comparing the actual rainfall of each month with the average, as well as a condensed series of rules for making rainfall observations. There are also tables of average monthly rainfall at seven British or Irish stations representing places with mean annual rainfalls of 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, between 50 and 60, and over 100 inches respectively. A short table of useful memoranda is added, including such points as the definition of "Rain" and of droughts, and the number of tons of water corresponding to an inch of rain on an acre, about which questions are continually being asked. Like all the publications of the Rainfall Organization, this book is sold to the public only through the publisher, Mr. Stanford, although observers may, if they prefer it, obtain copies (by post only) from the Editor.

In concluding the volume of this Magazine for 1903 we have to thank our readers for much consideration and help and to ask for more, so that it may be possible without serious loss to maintain the increase of 25 per cent. in the size of the Magazine throughout the coming year. The expense of advertising a journal appealing to so small a section of the public is prohibitory, but the Editor is always glad to send a specimen copy to any one whose name is sent to him as likely to be interested, and he asks his readers to mention this to their friends.

January, 1904.