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suggested, without more definite knowledge that they would be desired by the owners and masters of ships. The distinctions between the warnings now issued to the coasts and those proposed by Lloyd's should at the same time be pointed out.

It was resolved, at the suggestion of the Hydrographer, that a special report on the gale of March 6 in the North Sea should be prepared.

Read—The following letter (Minutes, 1882, p. 109):—

M.O. 739.

DEAR SIR,

The Central News, Limited, 6, Ludgate Circus,
London, April 2, 1883.

I HAVE carefully considered the question of taking news for the country papers, and I think the latest time we ought to have the message in this office would be 11 o'clock. Some provincial newspapers go to press at half-past 12, and this would not leave much time for catching those editions. Most papers, however, publish an edition for their town, which is not printed until 5 o'clock in the morning, and we could, of course, take the forecast very much later for those editions, but they do not comprise the whole issue of the papers.

R. H. Scott, Esq.,
Meteorological Office,
116, Victoria Street, Westminster.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS DUFF,
Manager.

Read Letter 724, from Captain Abney, enclosing some measurements made with the cloud camera (Minutes, 1882, p. 99).

The Secretary was instructed to thank Captain Abney for the information, and to express the hope that he would soon be able to send the instrument to Kew.

Mr. Galton submitted rough models and a memoir by himself on a method of determining the distance and height of clouds, and the direction and rate of their motion parallel to the Earth's surface.

HE supposed three observers and three instruments on stands, one of these being a "Finder" having a pair of parallel sights, and mounted like a rude theodolite, the others each consisting of a tube laid horizontally in Y-shaped supports, and having a graduated circle, with attached arm and sights, fixed flat against one of its projecting ends.

At the beginning of the measurement all three observers stand at the middle station where the Finder is mounted. Two of them look simultaneously through it, and fix upon a recognisable spot or interspace in the cloud. They then hurriedly separate, and hasten, the one to the right and the other to the left, to their respective stations, where their angular instruments have been so laid that the axes of their tubes lie in the same straight line. Each observer quickly rotates the tube of his instrument and turns the arm with the sights, until he aligns the latter with the cloud-spot. He then continues to keep the sights upon the spot, and to follow its motion, until he receives a signal to stop, which is given by a whistle from the third observer, who remains at the middle station. Observations of the same cloud-spot are thus made simultaneously from the two ends of a long base, and the angles shown by the circles are the basal angles of a triangle, whose base is the line separating the two stations and whose apex is the cloud-spot.

The third observer, immediately after his companions have started towards their respective stations, goes to the "Finder," and re-adjusts it, if not to identically the same spot that had been selected, at all events to one closely adjacent, and he notes the time. He then reads off the altitude and azimuth of the spot. After he has given the signal whistle he repeats the process. Thus he obtains the altitude and azimuth of the same cloud-spot at the beginning and at the end of a known interval of time, the latter of which is practically identical for purposes of calculation with the moment at which the observations to determine the distance of the cloud were made.

Professor Stokes brought forward certain proposals and suggestions as to the use of the Harmonic Analyser.

Read—The following letter (Minutes, p. 108):—

M.O. 786.

DEAR SIR,

Scottish Meteorological Society,

Albert Buildings, 6, Shandwick Place,
Edinburgh, April 5, 1883.

I AM directed by the Council of the Society to convey to the Meteorological Council their very cordial thanks for the grant of 100*l.* towards meeting the expenses incurred in connexion with observations made on Ben Nevis during last summer.

I am happy to be able to say that subscriptions for establishing the observatory are coming in in a fairly satisfactory manner.

A telegraph wire to the top of the Ben will be part of the essential equipment of the observatory.

R. H. Scott, Esq.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. SANDERSON,
Hon. Treasurer.