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STORM SIGNALS.

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From a report recently published by the Meteorological Office, we learn that one of the difficulties—and a serious one—in weather telegraphy is the frequency of errors in the telegraphic despatches. These despatches contain numerous figures, and hence are perhaps more liable to error than a despatch of words. There are twenty-nine weather stations connected with the Office in the British Islands, and their total number of errors in a year is about two thousand. Of storm-signal stations round the coasts, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, there are one hundred and thirty. When all the lines are in good working order, the Head Office (116 Victoria Street, Westminster) receives fifty-one reports every morning and nine every afternoon, except on Sundays, from stations which range from one end of Europe to the other—from Christiansund, in Norway, to Corunna in Spain. Most of the telegrams arrive in London about 9 a. m., when the Intelligence Department of the Post-Office extracts from them the portions required for its wind and weather reports. By 11 a. m. the functionaries of the Meteorological Office have reduced and discussed the details for the Daily Weather Report, copies of which are at once supplied to the evening papers. A brief telegraphic summary is despatched to the Ministry of Marine in Paris, and if necessary, intelligence of storms or of atmospherical disturbance is sent to our own coasts and to foreign countries. Later in the day, the afternoon reports come in, and the daily weather charts having been printed, are distributed by post. Besides all this, a telegram of the weather at fourteen of the principal stations is sent every day to the Underwriters' Rooms at Liverpool, and all the information forwarded to our coasts is also communicated to Lloyd's at the Royal Exchange, where it is posted up for the use of the members.—*Chambers' Journal*.

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AGE OF THE WORLD.

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The meeting of the British Association at Glasgow brought out statements and communications some of which are so important as to demand notice, however brief, in a chronicle of science. Professor Young's address to the Geological Section placed questions, much debated of late years, on a footing which may be taken as a new point of departure in future discussions concerning the age and constitution of the earth. "So far," said the Professor, "as our present knowledge goes, we must accept it as certain that there is some limit to the duration of the earth in the past. Neither philosophers nor astronomers are agreed on the essential points of the problem; nor have they considered all the possible changes in the position of the earth's axis, and in the rate at which the earth loses heat. Neither have geologists so