

to which it is applied, and never in any other position; thus, a temperature $10^{\circ}.5$ below zero, should be written $-10^{\circ}.5$.

(2) Vulgar fractions are never to be used, but decimal fractions only; thus, ten and a half should be written 10.5, and *not* $10\frac{1}{2}$.

(3) Throughout the same column the entries should be made with the same number of decimal places; and if a figure in one of the decimal places be wanting, its place should be supplied by (0). Moreover (0) *should* be entered in the units place, if the units be wanting.

Thus, in the *same* column, the numbers, 16.23, 14.50, 16.00, 0.47, 0.60, should not be written, 16.23, 14.5, 16, .47, .6;

for although the latter entries are not wrong, they are liable to lead to error, and should be avoided.

(4) When an observation has been omitted, the place where it would have been entered is to be left *blank*. On no account should (0) be written for it.

(5) The inches of barometric readings are to be entered in *full*; thus if 29 be the integral part of the reading at two or more consecutive observations, 29 should be repeated on each occasion.

(6) When two or more observations taken at the same hour on consecutive days, or at consecutive observation hours in the same day, are identical, the corresponding entries should be repeated on each occasion. On no account should a repetition be indicated by a blank, or a dash, or any other sign.

(7) In filling up the columns, the figures, letters, and words should be written in a plain, distinct manner, *without flourishes*, so that they may be read without danger of mistake.

(434) Conjectural Entries to be Strictly Avoided.—It is particularly requested that if an observation be accidentally omitted, no attempt be made to fill it up by conjecture, and that the observer strictly enters what he actually observes, however unlikely the observation may seem. The best chance of discovering the cause of an anomaly lies in the same being rigidly recorded, and a few blanks in the columns are of less importance than the detection therein of a conjectural emendation, which would vitiate the whole series by destroying its trustworthiness.