features that influence surface atmospheric currents are for our ephemeral existence unchanged, yet who doesn't remember that "the weather is so different now from what it was the same time of the year ten years ago." It seems absolute certainty then that the *causa belli* must be sought in our source not only of all heat but also of all life and of all energy of whatsoever nature upon the earth—the sun.

A good deal is known about the sun, but a good deal more is not known. The sun as has been said is our furnace. Now the trouble is we don't know how the furnace is run, we don't know what kind of heating material is used; it doesn't seem to be fed regularly; we haven't been able to measure accurately yet just how much heat is poured out, on to say a square foot; it is a seething boiling cauldron that is now under pretty close scrutiny, although at rather long range, and its inner working must yield up its story ere we can hope to give a satisfactory answer as to the "why" of weather; for the sun and weather stand in the relation of cause and effect to each other. Variation in the cause produces corresponding variations in the effect. The most promising investigation in solar physics at the present time is the one begun at Mt. Wilson, California, and supported by the Carnegie Institution for at least eleven years, a sun-spot cycle.

What the weather is going to be to-morrow we know, but why it is not the same as last year, we don't know.

PECULIAR NESTING SITE OF AMERICAN BITTERN.

Last evening while walking through a clover field where bobolinks were breeding abundantly, I flushed an American bittern off a nest containing four fresh eggs. The nest was placed in some long, coarse grass about 1½ feet high and was merely composed of a little dead grass flattened out by the bird. I was rather surprised at this find, as there is no marsh within a mile of the locality. Evidently this bird does not always nest in or near swamps. Six other nests of this species have been examined this year, but they were all located in large areas of bulrush swamps.

W. J. BROWN.

Westmount, Que., June 13th, 1907