

YEARS OF HEAVY SNOWFALL.

It has been asserted that the past winter gave a heavier snowfall at Montreal than any previous one. This is not true. The heaviest month this year was January, when 50.1 inches fell. On January 17-18, 1827, however, between 60 and 70 inches fell during the 48 hours. The roads were, in consequence, drifted 15 feet deep. During the winter of 1868-9 no less than 177 inches sifted down. The two years are given below for purposes of future comparison:—

SNOWFALL AT MONTREAL.

1868-9.		1886-7.	
	Inch.		Inch.
October.	4.9	October.	0.5
November.	17.3	November.	36.1
December.	28.0	December.	22.4
January.	28.1	January.	50.1
February.	73.7	February.	34.1
March.	25.0	March.	31.1
Total.	177.0	Total.	174.3

The mean for the past 12 years was 121.6 inches.

Correspondence.

[All letters should be addressed.—"Walter H. Smith, 31 Arcade Street, Montreal, Canada." For a personal reply, enclose stamp.]

THE "WORLD OF MARS."

[9.] Is all the MSS. of "Seybold Melvin, or the World of Mars," written? If so, how many chapters are there?

INQUIRER.

Ans.—"Inquirer" might as well have signed "Inquisitive." "Seybold Melvin" is all written. At present it is divided up into forty-four chapters.

AN EXCELLENT REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

[10.] People make funny remarks about your *Almanac* here. They say you make the bad weather just to sell the book. A lady, however, writes me from Woonsocket, R.I., who has had your *Almanac* the past two years and she thinks it "splendid, could not do without it." Others here say the same thing. Your forecasts tell so very true. I have sent copies up into Vermont, as well as out West, the very last one went yesterday to Sedalia, Mo. One man walked eight miles after one only this week, and an old man of 85 walked three miles for it last year, so as to know when to plant onions. All he planted at the times you calculated were beautiful. I intend to sell 100 more this Spring, every family ought to have one. I promised to relate some experiences about planting. Mr. G. B. used to have no success with cucumbers and had to buy them. I told him to plant when you calculated, and he would get enough. He did so, and the result was he had all he wanted to eat,

and all he wanted to pickle besides. Mr. C. was going to plant pole beans last summer, I told him to wait and try your time, but he would plant "just two rows." I took and planted the rest nearly two weeks later at the time you calculated. They came up, caught up with his and were ready to pick just as soon, with more beans on the poles. I also planted peas and sweet corn at the times you gave in the *Planetary Almanac*. All did well. Lots of peas. I planted flower seeds also, and got lots of flowers, everything making the most vigorous growth. I would not now like to be without the book. Send me ASTRONOMY AND METEOROLOGY.

Winchendon, Mass. Mrs. M. A. C.

"ENJOYED EVERY WORD OF IT."

[11.] In a bundle of papers forwarded me, great was my surprise and delight to behold the first—but I trust not the last issue of your now monthly. I enjoyed every word in it. You can count on one subscriber, and more if I can secure them. I was much interested in your paper on "Pre-historic Astronomy," following the discoveries of the shepherd astronomers with unwearied diligence. I think I see the footprints of another life in Seybold Melvin's love for planetary observations. I most sincerely hope the monthly will be a success. It ought to be a welcome visitor to many.

Hamline, Minn.

C.B.M.

ASSOCIATION QUERIES.

[12.] Please state: (1) When the Astro-Meteorological Association was founded. (2) The names and addresses of its officers. (3) How many members it has. (4) Who are eligible for membership. (5) How can I become a member. (6) What are the fees. (7) Has the Association any special objects in view, and if so, what are they.

A WOULD BE A. A. M. S.

Ans.—A prospectus giving most of the information you seek, is sent free on application. (1) On October 29, 1884, at Montreal. (2) President, Walter H. Smith, 31 Arcade Street, Montreal, Canada; Vice-Presidents, Richard Mansill, Rock Island, Ill.; Edward F. Test, Omaha, Neb.; N. Plumadore, Asheville, North Carolina; L. J. Heatwole, Dale-Enterprise, Virginia; B. F. Kirkpatrick, Harrisonburgh, Va.; Council, J. Fulton, M.D., Montreal; W. J. Webster, Montreal; Maria T. Cole, Malone, N. Y.; B. C. Murray, Denison, Texas; T. H. Turton, Montreal, and Right Rev. B. B. Ussher, Montreal; Secretaries, J. Brown, Montreal; C. H. Brunk, Dale-Enterprise, Va.; J. Stone, Asheville, N. C.; Treasurer, M. Austin, Montreal. (3) Seventy-seven. (4) All persons interested in the study of Astronomy, Astro-Meteorology,

(sometimes called Planetary Meteorology) Meteorology, and their kindred sciences. Ladies and gentlemen are equally eligible. (5) By sending a written application to the President, who nominates applicants at the meeting next following. (6) One dollar per annum, payable in advance on election, and annually in advance thereafter. (7) Certainly. By-law No. 2 reads:

"The general aim of the Astro-Meteorological Association shall be to examine into the various pre-supposed influences of the heavenly bodies upon each other, and especially upon the various elements and constituents of this earth, in order to establish rules for future guidance in forecasting the weather, seasons, times of plenty, seasons of dearth, times proper for planting and ingathering of crops, periods of sickness, health, etc., as well as to promote the study of the sciences of Astro-Meteorology, Astronomy and Meteorology."

THAT EDITOR'S FORTE WAS NOT ASTRONOMY.

[13.] Your *Almanac* calculations are made out with care and accuracy, and I therefore solicit your opinion concerning what I met with in the "Educational Department" of a certain weekly paper. The question was as to "how the distance of the Sun is determined." The answer ran:—"There are many ways of determining the Sun's distance. (1.) From the transit of Venus; (2.) From the shadow the Earth throws upon the Moon; and (3.) From the *Transit of Mars*." It is to this last statement that I object. Who ever saw from this Earth a "transit of Mars?" It is impossible. Am I right? If that would-be instructor had said Mercury, he might have been correct.

Sunnidale Corners, Ont. A. B.

Ans.—You are quite right. A transit of Mars is impossible as viewed from the Earth, the orbit of Mars lying outside ours, and Mars cannot, therefore, by any possibility, come between us and the Sun. If you are familiar with the routine of a printing office, you will understand that beside the Editor, who evidently only knew enough to transcribe, parrot fashion from a book, and even in so doing made a grievous mistake; several others, such as the corrector, proof reader, etc., must have been equally ignorant concerning one of the simplest facts of astronomy. To get rid of a little of this blackness of darkness is one of the leading objects of my publishing ASTRONOMY AND METEOROLOGY.

A CLERGYMAN'S WISH.

[14.] Enclosed is \$1.00, as one year's subscription to ASTRONOMY AND METEOROLOGY, which I hope may go on and prosper.

Prescott, Ont.

(REV.) G. B.