The instructions as to position either given by letter, by the direction of an inspector, or through the medium of the 'Book of Instructions' prepared by the late director, G. T. Kingston, M.A., is to place th gauge in a position as near the surface of the ground as possible, so that the mouth of the gauge be about one foot above the level; to see that the mouth of the gauge be kept strictly level and to see that its position be sufficiently removed from any building, tree or other objects that might interfere with the free access of rain, even when it falls with considerable obliquity.

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imes thus ed to r to it on isure As will be seen the tables commence with the year 1871, the Meteorological Service being organized in 1870, and continue until the year 1902. Many observations taken by volunteers are necessarily only for short connected periods and often give a broken series, but the paid observers give complete records or nearly so.

In a few cases observations were taken for some years before the inception of the Service and other than the regulation gauge was used. These extra years of observations are given as supplementary tables, and there is no reason to believe that the measurements so made differed materially from those made by the standard gauge.

Much care has been taken to try to leave out doubtful records, but when so much depends on the work of volunteer observers, it is impossible to find out all omissions of observation, but in plotting these records on the charts and comparing the observations at neighbouring stations a fair idea has been obtained as to which are most reliable and due allowance made.

The Tables have been divided into three separate series, Table No. 1 contains the sums of the annual precipitation from the year 1871 to 1902 for every station the record of which it has been considered advisable to use and wherever a year's observations were not complete the records have not been used, except in a few instances and in these cases a foot note calls attention to their possible errors. These yearly sums have been divided into five year periods and the pentad means struck, so that any period beginning with the year 1871 either for part or the whole years of observation may be easily obtained.

Table No II gives the monthly and annual rainfall together with the number of days of fall from a number of selected stations which give the more continued series, dating from the year 1874 up to 1902, and in cases where observations were taken before 1874 supplementary tables are given under the heading of Table No. II (supplementary).

Table No III contains the same information in regard to snowfall together with the supplementary tables.

Table No. IV gives the total precipitation at a few stations where observations were taken prior to 1871.

Following the tables are five charts giving at a glance the total mean annual precipitation in grades of each five inches. Each chart represents a part of the Dominion, viz: 1 British Columbia, 2 the Northwest Territories, 3 Manitoba and the district north of the Great Lakes east to the Quebec boundary, 4 Ontario proper and 5 Quebec and the Maritime Provinces.