good replies to Hill's and Penfield's articles on causes of drouth.

I saw replies referring to large scopes of country where there were numerous lakes, etc., and yet they were subject to drouths. Judging from newspaper reports sent in by some of the good citizens of Texas, the experiments made in that State to cause rain, has by no means been a success.

E. SANDFORD.

Nokomis, Ills.

This reminds us of a story about making rain some 40 years ago, which we copy from the San Francisco Examiner. Here it is:

Making thunder-storms to order is not such a new scheme as Frank Melbourne and the Government balloon dynamiters seem to think. Forty years ago it was tried successfully in California, and a drouth was broken without resort to expensive chemicals. An old Indian did the trick at no cost other than the expenditure of a little breath and mental effort. At least such is the statement made by S. A. Bishop, one of San Jose's most prominent citizens.

Mr. Bishop, in 1850, established the Tejoy Indian Reservation at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, under the directions of Gen. E. F. Beale, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in California, and gathered at Tejoy a large number of Indians, whom he instructed in agriculture. The Indians took kindly to the work, and during the first season they plowed and sowed with wheat, a field seven miles long by a mile in width. In March the rain ceased, the weather became very warm, and for two months not a drop of rain fell. The drouth threatened to ruin the wheat crop, and Mr. Bishop decided to try irrigation.

Five hundred Indians were set at work in four six-hours shifts, digging ditches to concentrate a number of small streams, and conduct the water to the wheat field. It was hard work, and, therefore, distasteful to the Indians.

One day the head man waited upon Mr. Bishop, and represented to him that it was foolishness to do so much hard work when rain could be had for the asking. They wanted permission to send to the mountains for a medicine man, who could produce rain by speaking a word.

A messenger was sent on muleback to the home of the chief of a small tribe living about 100 miles from the reservation.

At the end of five days the messenger returned and reported that the rain-god and his whole tribe were on the road to the reservation.

The news of the arrival of the great rain-maker was sent abroad, and at least 30,000 Indians gathered at Tejon to greet him.

Mr. Bishop propitiated the rain-god with a quart or two of red beads, and then interviewed him on meteorology.

"Can you make it rain?" he asked.

"Did you not send for me for that purpose?" said the old chief.

"Yes," rejoined Mr. Bishop, "but I would like to know whether you can do it."

"If I could not do it I would not have come." replied the old chief, and, although Mr. Bishop was not convinced, the logic of the reply was unanswerable, and he dropped the subject.

The Indians spent that night in dancing and feasting, eighty bullocks having been killed and barbecued for them, and the next day the rain-maker said he was ready to begin operations.

The Indian, retiring into the bush, went through some mysterious evolutons. Mr. Bishop says he was greatly amazed to see clouds begin to gather in the sky, and his surprise increased when a few drops of rain fell. But the Indian soon came out of the bush and declared that he could not be sure of a good shower until he could produce thunder and lightening, and he intended to go into a grove not far away and try some new incantations.

The Indian retired, and in less than half an hour the artillery was turned loose. There was a blinding flash of lightning and a roar of thunder that shook the earth, and then the rain came down in torrents. The old Indian's shower lasted for ten days, and the ground became so soaked that the cattle mired down on the plains.—American Bee Journal.

From reading the above, we imagine that it would not be advisable to get the Indians to produce rain, but if the bursting of dynamite shells in the air causes rain, it would be a simple and easy matter to plant mortars in various localities throughout the country, from which these shells may be discharged. We think this matter will require more experience and further proof, before it becomes generally adoped, although in this day and age of improvements and inventions, we should not question any improvement which bids fair to be successful.