VARIATION OF THE SUN'S RADIATION

Lecture Before Society of Arts
By Mr. C. G. Abbot of Smithsonian.

Last evening President Charles R. Cross of the Society of Arts presided at their meeting held in Huntington Hall, at 8 o'clock.

Before introducing the evening the President reviewed the work of the Smithsonian Institute, whose Astrophysical Laboratory is in Mr. Abbot's charge, and also the results obtained by his predecessor, Professor Langley, of later aerodrome fame. Professor Langley's work as an aeronautical experimenter, was valuable for his investigations of light beyond the visible red rays by means of a bolometer. This instrument is a thermometer depending upon the variation of resistance in a wire as its temperature rises and falls, which can be computed so delicately that it will record temporary variations of one hundred millionths of a degree Centigrade. Usually a less delicate indication is required. It has been by the use of this and another rather similar instrument that Mr. Abbot has obtained his determinations of the variations in the intensity of the solar radiation.

Mr. Abbot explained the construction and use by himself and colleague of these instruments on Mount Wilson, Mount Whitney, and, last summer, in Algeria. By early observations the Institute determined the radiation constant to lie between 1.92 and 1.95, values considerably smaller than had previously been supposed.

But as the observations became more frequent more or less regular variations were noticed, and it now seems probable that these variations have a period varying from two to seven days. If the computations of the results of last summer's Algerian expedition turn out as seems reasonable to expect, corresponding to results obtained in American simultaneous, it will be possible to forecast temperature conditions more accurately on the earth than to new possibility. The variation is as high as ten per cent.

RELAY CHANCES.

(Continued from Page 5, Col. 2.)

Aside from the Harvard two-mile team on the track it was hard to gain a large loss and they did not finish wall up. The two-mile team is in excellent condition, and as Harvard has a fine club home where Institute men may meet, we believe it is accomplishing this purpose, but apparently unlike Billy McGeen, "its fame has not spread abroad through the nation. We trust it may be better known in the future.

E. E. SOCIETY

On Wednesday afternoon, February 28th, the Electrical Engineering Society will conduct another trip through the General Electric Company's factory at West Lynn. Seventeen men are registered to go, all intending to take the trip, and any others who wish to go should sign up immediately, as the number of men who may go is limited.

The men will meet at 1:50 on that date in the Electrical Library in the Lowell Institute.

Fifty-five men trying for places on the track are members of Tech Show sounds like it might be a prosperous organization for some years to come.

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