

of more than one technical commission. Responsibility for a particular requirement by a single commission should rest with that commission which could, however, request CIMO's assistance. CIMO should also study developments in instrumental fields for possible meteorological application and promote interchange of information between members. A recommendation was drawn up on these lines.

At the end of the session the election of new officers took place. Dr. L. S. Mathur (India) was elected president to succeed M. Perlat who has held that office for the last eight years, and Mr. A. Hauer (Netherlands) was elected vice-president.

Three periods during the session were set aside for scientific discussions. Fourteen papers were read covering a wide variety of instrumental problems, such as evaporation, the uses of radar, automatic weather stations, upper air measurements, to name only a few. Social activities included a reception and a dinner given by Ministers of the Government of India, and a visit to the Indian Meteorological Department's Headquarters where the delegates were able to see the Department's fine workshops and equipment. In addition two most enjoyable and interesting tours were organized by the Indian Meteorological Department; one of them to places of historic interest in and around Delhi, while the other was a visit to Agra, over 120 miles away, where the delegates were able to see the famous Taj Mahal.

The success of the meeting was due not only to the fine co-operation of all the delegates, but also to the excellent work of the WMO Secretariat represented by Messrs. O. M. Ashford and K. T. McLeod. The Executive Secretary Mr. P. K. Das and all his staff also deserve mention for the way in which they kept the documentation right up to date. The interpretation throughout the session was extremely good. The Indian Government are to be congratulated upon the excellence of all the facilities provided. Thanks on behalf of all the delegates must be offered to them and to Mr. Krishna Rao and his staff in the Indian Meteorological Department for their helpfulness and generosity as hosts during the stay in New Delhi.

NOTES AND NEWS

Kew Observatory—a new feature

In July 1954, Mr. G. A. Whipple unveiled in the Superintendent's room at Kew Observatory, the main tablet, presented by his father, the late Mr. R. S. Whipple, giving the list of King's Observers and Superintendents from the time the Observatory was founded by George III in 1769 up to 1939, as well as the second tablet in memory of Robert Beckley. An account of the ceremony is given in the *Meteorological Magazine*¹.

Recently a collection of photographs has been assembled and placed opposite the stone tablets. There exists at Kew Observatory a small framed silhouette of the first King's Observer, Dr. Stephen Charles Triboudet Demainbray, which was presented by his great grandson Major-General G. Rigaud in 1881, as is recorded on the back in the latter's writing. No pictorial record has, however, so far as is known, survived of his son, Stephen George Francis Triboudet Demainbray who was King's Observer at Kew for 58 years, but as he did not die until 1854, at the age of 95, it is possible that a photograph may exist.

At the time of the present search photographs of six of the nine Superintendents, listed on the tablet, were available; the missing three were those of Sir Francis Ronalds, Samuel Jeffery and Dr. J. M. Stagg. The book "Catalogue of books and papers relating to electricity, magnetism, the electric telegraph etc., including the Ronalds Library" edited by A. J. Frost, 1880, stated that Sir Francis Ronalds had left his library to the Society of Telegraph Engineers and a telephone call to the Librarian to the successor to this Society—the Institute of Electrical Engineers—revealed that not only was an oil painting of Sir Francis Ronalds available, but a photograph had been taken of this by the Post Office in 1938; the Post Office readily supplied a copy of this photograph.

A search amongst old documents in the basement at Kew was rewarding in that a staff photograph marked "about 1870" showed an obvious grouping about a central figure; next to him was the unmistakable figure of a young G. M. Whipple who was then chief assistant and was later (in 1876) to become Superintendent. This central figure has been taken to be Samuel Jeffery and the photographic reproduction branch of the Air Ministry skilfully produced a suitable photograph eliminating the heavy watch chains on the waistcoats at the back of the group. Dr. Stagg could trace no photograph of himself taken in the relevant period, but kindly provided a copy of that taken in 1961 at the end of his term as President of the Royal Meteorological Society.

The group of photographs as thus assembled is shown in the photograph facing p. 193. Six of the nine photographs show Superintendents as they were during their term of office, the other three (Sir Francis Ronalds, Balfour Stewart and James Martin Stagg) show them later in life.

The silhouette of Dr. Demainbray and a small photograph of Robert Beckley are also kept in the Superintendent's room at Kew Observatory. There is also an interesting photograph of John Welsh showing him ready for a balloon ascent in July 1852; this photograph was taken from a group which included J. Gassiot and Sir Edward Sabine².

L. J.

REFERENCES

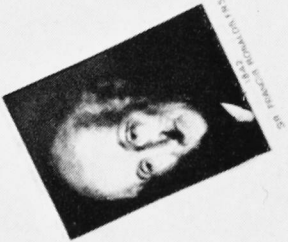
1. London, Meteorological Office; Memorial tablets at Kew Observatory. *Met. Mag., London*, **83**, 1954, p. 321.
2. SHAW, SIR NAPIER; An episode in the history of Kew Observatory. *Met. Mag., London*, **61**, 1926, p.125.

British Council course on meteorology, 1-13 April 1962

As part of its effort to encourage an appreciation of Britain abroad, the British Council organizes each year a number of courses on scientific subjects for overseas workers in the subjects, the object being to present a survey of recent developments and current practice with particular reference to British contributions and methods. It was as the result of a suggestion by Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, while he was President of the Royal Society, that the Council decided to include a course in meteorology in its 1962 programme. It will be recalled that Sir Cyril laid the foundation stone of the new Meteorological Office Headquarters building in Bracknell on 28 October 1959. The Director-General of the Meteorological Office was approached by the Council for help and advice as a result of which a suitable programme was prepared.

1842

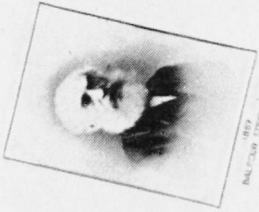
1939



1842
GEORGE MATHIEWS WHIPPLE



1871
JOHN WHIPPLE



1842
FRANCIS RONALDS



1939
SIR FRANCIS SIMPSON

SUPERINTENDENTS



1876
GEORGE MATHIEWS WHIPPLE



1893
CHARLES CHREE



1939
JAMES MARTIN STAGG



1852
JOHN WELSH



1871
FRANCIS JOHN BALFOUR STEWART

Crown copyright

KEW OBSERVATORY SUPERINTENDENTS, 1842-1939

Top: 1842, Sir Francis Ronalds, F.R.S.; 1852, John Welsh, F.R.S.; 1859, Balfour Stewart, F.R.S.; 1871 Samuel Jeffery.
Bottom: 1876, George Mathews Whipple; 1893, Charles Chree, F.R.S.; 1925, Francis John Welsh Whipple; 1939, James Martin Stagg; 1939, Sir George Simpson, F.R.S.
(see p. 200)