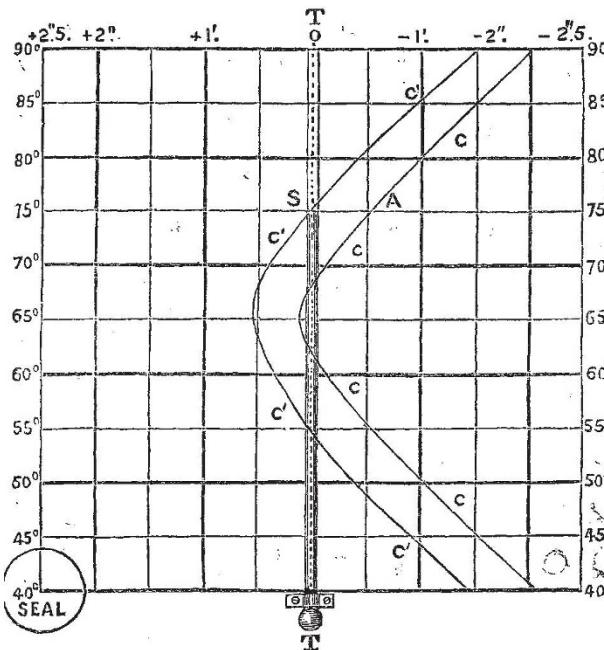


table or diagram as given below, in which T is a thermometer, C and C' are curves drawn after testing the chronometer. For an ordinary voyage in which no extremes of temperature are expected, or which, if they occur, will be of short duration only, we should seal the diagram under the thermometer, so that the temperature line of 65° should coincide with and pass through the apex of the curve, and if the chronometer were neither gaining nor losing at 65° we should draw the curve as C ; if the chronometer were gaining five-tenths of a second per day we should draw the curve as C' .

Then the rate is always to be reckoned from the summit of the mercury horizontally till the line meets the curve ; if this line should be to the left of the thermometer the time should be reckoned as *plus* (+) or *gaining* ; if to the right, as *minus* (-) or *losing*.

Thus, for example, taking the line S A for a chronometer whose rate at 65° is 0° oths, this will give at 75° $-0^{\circ}5$ ths, or losing half a second daily ; or for a chronometer whose rate at 65° (C') is fast $0^{\circ}5$ ths, at 75° it would be 0° oths for a chronometer whose daily coefficient gives a curve as here drawn.



Of course in determining a daily rate, two or more observations of temperature should be taken, so as to give a mean temperature point from which to reckon the rate, as the day and night temperatures differ considerably.

Prof. Lieusous, in his *brochure*, gives a rule for determining the amount which a new chronometer is likely to *gain* on its rate, owing to the hardness of the balance-spring and other causes independent of temperature, but we do not find this latter so reliable as the temperature-correction method as detailed above.

Should this prove interesting to your readers, we may, with your permission, at some future time give a few reasons for the difference that is found to exist between the daily coefficients of temperature of different chronometers.

PARKINSON AND FRODSHAM

4, Change Alley, Cornhill, London, March 12

P.S.—The above system renders the auxiliary compensation unnecessary, and can therefore effect a saving of 4% to 5% on the cost of each instrument.

Lowest Temperature

THERE appears to be something almost abnormal in the climatic conditions to which the observatory at Stonyhurst is subject (vol. xv. p. 399). I remember going into a garden in the neighbourhood of Knaresborough, in Yorkshire, about eight o'clock on the morning of Christmas Day, 1860, and seeing what I suppose had never been seen in England outside a laboratory before that morning, viz., the mercury in a thermometer

standing at 8° F. below zero, i.e., 40° F. of frost. At Stonyhurst on the same day the thermometer went down only to $6^{\circ}7$ F., i.e., there were $25^{\circ}3$ F. of frost.

Again, on March 1, 1877, the lowest temperature registered in the neighbourhood of Knaresborough was only, I believe, 18° F., whilst at Stonyhurst it was $9^{\circ}1$ F. The differences, therefore, between the temperatures on the two days spoken of at these places, not fifty miles distant from each other, were respectively $2^{\circ}4$ F. and 26° F., which are so wide apart as to suggest that Stonyhurst is subject to climatic conditions which do not prevail in the Vale of York. I may mention that the record in the *Times* of the temperature on the morning of March 1, was only 25° F., but in country districts in the south of England it was as low as 20° F. Great numbers of oaks, laurels, and other evergreens were killed in Yorkshire by the frost of 1860.

Oxford

R. ABBAY

Meteor

A FEW minutes before 10 o'clock on Saturday night I saw a very beautiful meteor towards the western horizon. The meteor passed obliquely downwards towards Orion's belt, moving slowly from right to left. When first seen it was a brilliant white body about $\frac{1}{4}$ th the apparent diameter of the moon. As it passed onwards it became bluish and pear-shaped with a bright track. Before its final disappearance between the belt and the pleiades it had a purplish hue. It was visible about four or five seconds, and during that period it traversed about ten or fifteen degrees.

Brighton, March 12

W. AINSLIE HOLLIS

I SAW the meteor at 9h. 56m. P.M. of Saturday, March 17, mentioned by your correspondent, "W. M." I was on the sea-shore at Rossall, near Fleetwood, and while looking out to sea, due west, I became aware of a sudden outburst of light on my left. On turning I saw the splendid meteor sailing rather slowly across the sky from a point about 3° north-west of ϵ Hydræ to a point in Monoceros, whose position I should estimate to be about R.A. = $7h. 30m.$; Decl. = 20° o' south.

March 26

J. H.

DR. SCHLEIMANN ON MYCENÆ

L AST Thursday night will be always regarded as a memorable one in the history of the Society of Antiquaries, when Dr. Schliemann described to an unusually distinguished audience his own and his wife's explorations on the site of the Acropolis of ancient Mycenæ. Taking as his clue the well-known passage in which Pausanias (A.D. 176) speaks of the ruins and traditions of the famous Greek city, Dr. Schliemann was led to the belief that his scholarly predecessors had mistaken its drift. The passage in Pausanias runs thus :—

"Among other remains of the wall is the gate, on which stand lions. They (the wall and the gate) are said to be the work of the Cyclopes, who built the wall for Pætus in Tiryns. In the ruins of Mycenæ is the fountain called Perseia, and the subterranean buildings of Atreus and his children, in which they stored their treasures. There is a sepulchre of Atreus, with the tombs of Agamemnon's companions, who on their return from Ilium were killed at dinner by Ægisthus. The identity of the sepulchre of Cassandra is called in question by the Lacedæmonians of Amyklæ. There is the tomb of Agamemnon and that of his charioteer Eurymedon. Teledamos and Pelops were deposited in the same sepulchre, for it is said that Cassandra bore these twins, and that, when still little babies, they were slaughtered by Ægisthus, together with their parent. Hellanikos (B.C. 495-411) writes that Pylades, who was married to Electra by the consent of Orestes, had by her two sons, Medon and Strophios. Clytemnestra and Ægisthus were buried at a little distance from the wall, because they were thought unworthy to have their tombs inside of it, where Agamemnon reposed, and those who were slain with him."

Previous explorers had searched in vain for any of the relics here referred to, because they searched in the wrong place, mistaking the wall spoken of for that of the city,