

ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

A meeting of this Committee was held on January 21-22, 1950, under the chairmanship of Dr. S. K. Banerji. The Chairman gave a brief review of the work done under the auspices of the Committee, since its inception, in the fields of cosmic rays, observa-

tions of atmospheric ozone, infra-red radiation and distribution of water vapour in the atmosphere. He emphasised the need of close co-operation between this Committee and the sister Committee for Cosmic Ray Research, and Radio Research.

The Committee recommended the continuance of the schemes for "Measurement of Atmospheric Ozone with the Dobson Spectrophotometer" by Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, "Infra-red Radiation from the Atmosphere" by Dr. L. A. Ramdas, and "Studies on Colloidal Instability of Cloud Particles above and below Freezing Temperatures" by Dr. S. K. Banerji.

It was agreed that the India Meteorological Department would maintain close liaison with the Department of Atmospheric Physics of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, in connection with the latter's study of the correlation between meson counts at ground level, at the level of 100 mb., the ground-level pressure and the mean temperature between 200 mb. and 100 mb. The India Meteorological Department agreed to set up one of its radiosonde stations at Ahmedabad, the station being operated by the Research Institute with radiosonde instruments provided by the Meteorological Department.

A list of fundamental problems in Meteorology for circulation to individual workers in the Meteorological Department and the Universities was approved at the meeting. A Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. S. K. Banerji, Dr. K. R. Ramanathan and Mr. V. V. Sohoni was appointed to contact workers in connection with this list.

A Sub-Committee was also appointed for drawing up a programme for observations of microseisms, sea-waves and swells.

The Committee considered the provisional draft plan for a Combined High Level Research Institute in the Himalayas. Mr. J. Banerji gave an account of the three trips which he made in 1949, accompanied by Prof. A. C. Joshi and Dr. R. Ananthakrishnan, to the Sikkim, Jumnotri and Lahaul zones of the Himalayas. They had located two satisfactory peaks in Sikkim and one in Lahaul. He did not consider the Jumnotri area suitable. As each valley has its own local climate, the best thing would be to take observations extending over a year at the proposed sites, before deciding on a site for the Research Station. Mr. Banerji stated that in his opinion the Alakananda Valley (Mana Pass, near Badrinath), where Messrs. O. N. Dhar and S. D. Nigudkar of the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission had reported a site last September, would be ideal for the purpose and no decision should be taken before this site is properly investigated. He, therefore, suggested that a party should visit the Alakananda Valley during this year to observe this site.