

JOINT COLLOQUIA

28th July, 1955Observations at Willis Island

by U. Radok

Dr. Radok, of the University Meteorology Department described a three weeks' visit to Willis Island in April 1954, made possible by the help of the Royal Australian Navy. Radiation observations were made on the island with a view to establishing the heat economy of the Coral Sea. It appeared however that despite its small area the island creates meteorological conditions somewhat different from those of the open sea. The main feature of its "local climate" is a much greater daily temperature amplitude. Trees growing on the island reduce the observed wind velocity below its true value for winds from directions between 140° and 170° . They also appear to create a distinct rain shadow: during a six weeks period a rain gauge located at different points near the southeast end of the island recorded over 1 inch of rain more than the station rain gauge less than 200 yards away. These and other similar points will be taken into account in reducing the island's thirty years of observations to open sea conditions. The talk was illustrated with slides.

22nd September, 1955The World Meteorological Organisation

by L.J. Dwyer

The Director of the Bureau of Meteorology, Mr. L.J. Dwyer, first described the genesis of the W.M.O., its structure and its functions. To perform these functions the W.M.O. is set up with 17 constituent bodies comprising Congress, and Executive Committee, a Secretariat, 6 Regional Associations and 8 Technical Commissions.

The work of Congress was illustrated by reference to the work covered by Second Congress of which Mr. Dwyer was a member. Decisions of Congress require a two-thirds majority and proposals of larger nations can be defeated by a relatively small group of the less powerful States.

The main functions of the Executive Committee, which meets annually, are the provision of technical information, counsel and assistance in the field of meteorology, the adoption of resolutions arising out of the recommendations of the Technical Commissions and supervision of the execution of

decisions of Congress. In its last meeting it dealt with the establishment of working groups on the production of a climatological atlas, the International Geophysical Year, the Humid Tropics project, water resources development and collaboration with UNESCO in the symposium on Arid Zone Climatology and other matters.

Meetings of Regional Commissions normally deal with such matters as the regional standardisation of instruments, examination of observing networks, use of codes, regional communications and the co-ordination and encouragement of research. Recent work of the Technical Commissions was discussed, mention being made of difficulties confronting these commissions in their work. The composition and work of the Secretariat was then outlined.

In reply to questions Mr. Dwyer elaborated on the moral obligation of member States to adopt the resolutions of W.M.O., the procedure adopted in initiating technical projects and the basis of assessment of contributions by member States to the upkeep of W.M.O. Mr. Bahr, ex Chief of the Administrative Division, gave a brief outline of the duties of W.M.O. professional staff and expressed the view that, during the second four-yearly financial period of the W.M.O. commencing in 1956, more substantial technical results should be achieved than was possible in the first financial period when the work of all constituent bodies was largely concerned with constitutional problems.