

## JOINT COLLOQUIUM

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What is a Climatologist?

by C.W. Thornthwaite

Dr. Thornthwaite, of the Laboratory of Climatology, Drexel Institute, U.S.A., who was visiting Australia in connection with the UNESCO Symposium on Arid Zone Climatology stated that he was not going to speak to the title of his talk. He then outlined his work in U.S.A. and effectively showed that climatology is much more than the mere compilation of meteorological statistics.

He discussed his early work on the measurement of the vapour pressure gradient and the wind variation on the vertical near the earth's surface; the use of the concept of potential evapotranspiration to determine the soil water surplus and deficiency and thereby the irrigation needs of plants; and other aspects of his work at Seabrook Farm.

Dr. Thornthwaite commended the work being done on the measurement of evaporation by the CSIRO, Division of Meteorological Physics, Melbourne.

