

CORRESPONDENCE

Addendum to THE FIRST SERIES OF METEOROLOGICAL
OBSERVATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

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I was recently able to inspect some partly unpublished, meteorological observations contained in the papers of Sir Thomas Brisbane which are held in the library of the Royal Society of London. They give some additional information on the earliest regular observations in Australia.

Sir Thomas made once daily observations between 1 June and 5 November 1821 during his voyage from England to Australia on the ship "Royal George".

The observations at Parramatta contain from August 1822 also the wind direction. They were taken once daily; the temperature means are derived from the maxima and minima. The pressures were taken at "morning, noon and night". The minimum of 26°F on 20 June 1822 is corroborated by the lowest temperature of the winter on the same day at 7 a. m. at Sydney, 42°F.

The observations for February and March 1823 are much more complete.

The start of the observations at Parramatta, once considered the earliest in Australia (Hunt, 1916), was actually slightly antedated by detailed observations in the Brisbane papers taken from 7 April 1822 to 6 April 1823 "at the Regimental Hospital of the 48th Regiment, Sydney, New South Wales. Height 141 ft, thermometer in the shade and exposed to the current of air". It should be possible to locate the place of these observations. They comprise observations at 7 a. m., 1 p. m. and 7 p. m. of temperature, pressure, direction and force of the wind, and remarks concerning the weather. These observations are a continuation of those of Goulburn.

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