

NOTICES.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

No. 89.—The following particulars of a fraud commonly known as the "Spanish Swindle" and practised by a gang of thieves in Spain, who are still endeavouring to victimise residents in the British Colonies, are published for general information :—

"This time-honoured fraud continues to be practised upon the unwary by a gang of ingenious swindlers established in Madrid and other Spanish towns. Assisted by accomplices in England they single out their victims and extract money from them by means of a letter which is generally to the following effect :—

A Spanish prisoner who is dying in a military prison desires to provide for his only daughter. He possesses a large fortune secreted somewhere, and offers to transfer it to his correspondent if the latter will maintain and educate the child. Certain obligations, however, must first be discharged, and for this purpose about £100 is to be forwarded in bank-notes to a given address where the prison chaplain will receive the sum and escort the girl to England. The fortune will then be handed over. The story is usually supported by forged documents and newspaper cuttings."

Persons receiving such letters would do well to communicate with His Majesty's Embassy in Madrid.

CLAUD SEVERN,
Colonial Secretary.

13th March, 1914.

ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

No. 90.—Extract of Meteorological Observations made at the Royal Observatory, Hongkong, during the month of February, 1914.

DATE.	BARO-METER AT M.S.L.	TEMPERATURE.			HUMIDITY.		CLOUDI-NESS.	SUN-SHINE.	RAIN.	WIND.	
		Max.	Mean.	Min.	Rel.	Abs.				Dir.	Vel.
	ins.	°	°	°	p. c.	ins.	p. c.	hrs.	ins.	Points.	Miles p. h.
1,	30.13	69.0	64.0	59.3	78	0.47	38	5.9	...	E	6.8
2, .....	.18	66.0	63.1	61.1	73	.42	83	3.4	...	E by N	15.3
3, .....	.19	61.5	60.3	59.1	75	.40	80	0.2	0.005	ENE	27.3
4, .....	.09	63.3	61.2	59.2	79	.43	100	0.0	0.010	E by N	24.4
5, .....	.01	69.2	64.7	62.0	90	.55	69	5.6	...	E by N	11.7
6, .....	.07	70.1	65.1	62.3	91	.57	82	4.2	...	E by N	15.7
7, .....	.03	64.8	62.0	61.0	92	.51	100	0.0	1.910	E by N	22.5
8, .....	.09	70.9	64.7	60.9	72	.44	46	10.0	0.135	NE by E	11.7
9, .....	.24	62.0	58.4	55.5	74	.36	98	0.3	...	NE by E	16.1
10, .....	.25	58.0	55.2	51.8	78	.34	100	0.0	0.030	NE by N	10.0
11, .....	.28	62.7	55.6	48.7	57	.25	30	9.9	...	N by E	5.2
12, .....	.30	60.3	56.8	51.5	60	.28	12	9.7	...	E by N	11.9
13, .....	.25	62.4	59.4	55.4	62	.32	71	4.7	...	E by N	18.4
14, .....	.18	63.9	61.7	59.5	73	.40	89	3.4	...	E by N	20.7
15, .....	.13	69.1	64.6	61.6	83	.51	58	7.8	...	E by S	14.3
16, .....	.05	68.0	64.4	62.6	92	.55	96	2.3	...	E	19.5
17, .....	.02	76.5	69.9	63.5	89	.65	90	3.7	...	SE by E	11.7
18, .....	.03	76.1	72.8	70.7	85	.69	92	3.5	...	S	5.9
19, .....	.03	78.3	71.6	68.2	86	.67	81	6.9	...	SE by S	6.4
20, .....	.02	77.6	71.6	67.8	83	.64	57	9.4	...	SSE	7.5
21, .....	.03	77.7	70.5	65.9	84	.62	52	8.7	...	ESE	7.7
22, .....	.09	64.6	60.0	55.7	79	.41	100	0.0	0.425	NW by N	8.5
23, .....	.13	63.9	60.2	55.0	74	.39	90	0.5	...	ENE	11.8
24, .....	.13	64.2	61.9	59.3	72	.40	65	8.0	...	E by N	22.8
25, .....	.12	66.7	63.4	60.5	72	.42	64	8.7	...	E	13.6
26, .....	.13	64.1	62.4	60.2	79	.45	100	0.8	0.045	E by N	21.4
27,13	60.9	59.8	58.2	92	.47	100	0.0	0.515	E by N	17.0
28,17	62.6	61.2	59.9	84	.46	99	0.0	0.165	E by N	16.3
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Mean.	30.12	66.9	63.1	59.9	79	.47	77	Sum. 117.6	Sum. 3.240	E by N	14.4