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. Anantha-krishnan, 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.

MEETING OF THE EXPERT SUB-COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING OF HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH STATION IN THE HIMALAYAS.

Following a recommendation made by the Atmospheric Research Committee at its meeting referred to above, a meeting of this Expert Sub-Committee was held at the Meteorological Office, New Delhi, on the 15th of March 1950. The principal item discussed was the provisional draft plan for the Research Station, prepared by Dr. S. K. Banerji. The general consensus of opinion was that the plan of a fully equipped Research Station, as set out in the provisional draft, should be considered a long range objective. The aim should be to develop it slowly, beginning with small buildings and a skeleton staff. The more immediate efforts should be directed at setting up small "working camps" which could offer the minimum of comfortable accommodation for a few visiting scientists. Such "working camps" should be set up without
delay at Thangu (Sikkim) and Kyelong (Lahaul). If, as a result of further inspection, the site at the Mana Pass, near Badrinath, proves to be the best, the objective of developing this station into a well-equipped High Level Research Station should be kept in view. The Chairman was asked to place these proposals before the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for their approval, and for the appointment of observers to be posted at the two "working camps" for continuous meteorological observations, including observations of seeing conditions at the two sites. The Defence Ministry would also be approached to post at these stations a senior physicist or physiologist for physiological observations.

Ways and means to arrange a tour for inspection of the site near the Mana Pass were also considered.

FRENCH EXPEDITION TO DHHAULAGIRI.

The French Mountaineering Federation has arranged an expedition to the Dhaulagiri area this summer. Nine French Mountaineers under the leadership of Maurice Herzog have left for Nepal in the first week of April to climb the unexplored 26,810 ft. Dhaulagiri—one of the highest peaks of the Himalayas, to explore its valleys, make extensive geographical, topographical and meteorological survey in that region and record observations on human resistance to high altitudes. The party has taken with it equipment consisting of special tents, oxygen masks, specially made nylon and wool clothing, rations, "walky-talky" radio sets, photographic materials, etc., weighing about 3 tons. Seven Sherpas under their Sardar Angthar Key have accompanied the party to work as high altitude porters.

The party is expected to complete the exploration in about two months. To keep it informed about the weather conditions in the Dhaulagiri region during the period, the India Meteorological Department has arranged to issue special weather bulletins daily from the Meteorological (Forecast) Office, New Delhi. The All India Radio, New Delhi, has arranged to broadcast these bulletins daily at 7.30 P.M. on four frequencies.

SOLAR AND GEOMAGNETIC PHENOMENA DURING THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY—31st MARCH, 1950.

According to observations made at Kodaikanal Observatory no very striking solar or geomagnetic phenomena occurred during the period under review; but the following phenomena are worthy of mention.

A long dark marking was observed in the southern hemisphere since January 22 on the Hγ spectroheliograms. On February 3 it appeared as a large prominence, 8 sq. minutes of arc in area, at mean solar latitude 25° S and extended over 32° of the west limb. Large Doppler displacements on either side indicated great agitation, maximum displacements observed being 4.5 Å towards the red and 2.2 Å towards the violet. The prominence became invisible on the following day.

A geomagnetic "crochet" was observed on the HF magnetogram at 1150 hrs. I. S. T. on February 15. The horizontal force showed a maximum increase of 78° in the course of the disturbance which lasted for an hour and two minutes. A simultaneous ionospheric phenomenon—a Dellinguer fade-out between 1155 hrs. and 1310 hrs. I. S. T. on the same day, with a complete fade-out between 1155 and 1255 hrs.—was