given. The only advantage that Clarke's projection can have is that it can be constructed graphically without the use of numerical tables or computations; but this advantage disappears as soon as we attempt to construct a large map.

The combination of Airy's development (or some projections still more appropriate) with Helmholtz's method of mechanical similarity should enable us to interpret our laboratory experiments intelligently, so that from these we may construct a close approximation to the general circulation of the atmosphere.

I consider it extremely desirable that these experiments should be made on a large scale, with due regard to all numerical, statistical and mechanical details in some laboratory where the study of meteorology is prosecuted as a branch of mathematical physics.

SHORTER NOTICES.

Breve Storia della Matematica dai tempi antichi al medio evo. By GAETANO FAZZARI. Milano, R. Sandron, 1907. 268 pp. Price, 4 lire.

IT is rather strange that Italy, the country that produced the most learned bibliophile in the domain of mathematics, Prince Boncompagni, and that furnished to France another well-known collector of early works, the historian Libri, should have published so little relating to the general development of the science. It is true that Favaro and Loria have contributed very acceptably to the history of certain periods or topics, and that Riccardi's bibliography of the early mathematical works of his own country will always be a standard book of reference, but in spite of all the encouragement of men like these, and all the patriotism that would lead an Italian to write the story of a science that so largely developed on his native soil, such a work as a worthy general history of mathematics does not exist in the language of Italy. It is for this reason that such an attempt as Professor Fazzari's should be particularly welcome, the more so as it was written on the island in which Archimedes spent most of his life, which Pythagoras visited, and to which Maurolycus brought no small amount of glory in the period of the Renaissance.

The aim of Professor Fazzari has been to write a work of about the character of Ball's and Cajori's popular histories, one