PROCEDURE

In 1948.—Owing to unavoidable delays connected with the expedition plane, the first thermohms were not in operation until 12 July 1948, and the entire task of installation was not completed until 17 July. Shallow holes were punched mechanically, but holes deeper than 10 ft. (3 m.) were bored thermally. Thermohms were set in the bored holes after they had been plugged and left to stabilize for 1–3 days. Installations were made at the following depths in feet: 3·4,* 6·7, 9·6, 13·2, 15·7, 20·3, 23·9, 30·6, 39·4, 61·7, 75, 188, and 204. These figures decreased a few inches during the period of observation owing to lowering of the surface by ablation. A small amount of loose firn was sprinkled into the hole to form a packing around the thermohm and to close it off from possible convection currents. The top of the hole was plugged with rock wool. Court [13] outlines a highly idealized procedure for temperature measurements in polar ice to which the above conforms in part.

In 1949.—As in 1948, initiation of temperature measurements was delayed approximately one month beyond the projected date by transportation troubles. Thermohms were installed and a consistent program of daily observations was started on 28 June (Fig. 3, p. 491). Holes to a depth of 25 ft. (7·6 m.) were punched mechanically, only the deeper holes were bored thermally. Small pellets of rock wool were sent down each hole to form a packing around and above the thermohm and to cut off convection currents within the hole. A plug of rock wool was established nearer

* In meters these depths are: 1·06, 2·4, 2·93, 4·03, 4·8, 6·2, 7·3, 9·3, 12·1, 18·8, 22·9, 57·5, 62·2.