Front Cover: The upper figure shows the annual distribution of cloud-to-ground lightning flashes, with the minimum in the west and the maximum in the southeast. The relationship between the occurrence of lightning and records of reported thunder is analyzed by S. A. Changnon in paper J4.7.

The lower figure shows winter biases in gage-measured precipitation. The percentage bias exceeds 28 percent in the northern plains where most of the precipitation is in the form of snow. Analysis of biases for the summer months and the actual magnitude of biases are presented in paper J2.2 by D. R. Legates and T. Deliberty.

Back Cover: These two figures show comparisons of observed surface temperatures from the East Anglia data set versus hemispheric mean temperatures calculated by the transient coupled ocean-atmosphere model of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory for the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Several papers in this volume deal with the problem of comparing climate forecasts with observed data. The comparison shown on the back cover are discussed by P. J. Michaels and P. C. Knappenberger in paper 4.4.

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