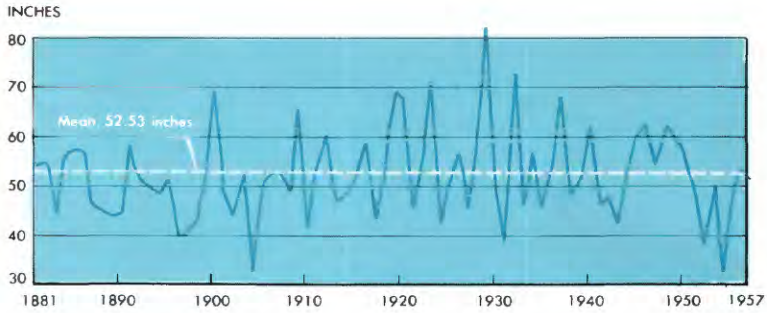

FIGURE 3.—Annual rainfall at Tuscaloosa.

If we consider individual storms, extreme variations are evident: First, the amount of rain can vary from a mere trace to a great deal; about 30 inches fell at Elba in the great storm of 1929. Second, the area covered by a storm may be very small or it may be many thousands of square miles.

About 15,000 cubic miles of water evaporates each year from the lakes and land surfaces of the continents. Water evaporates

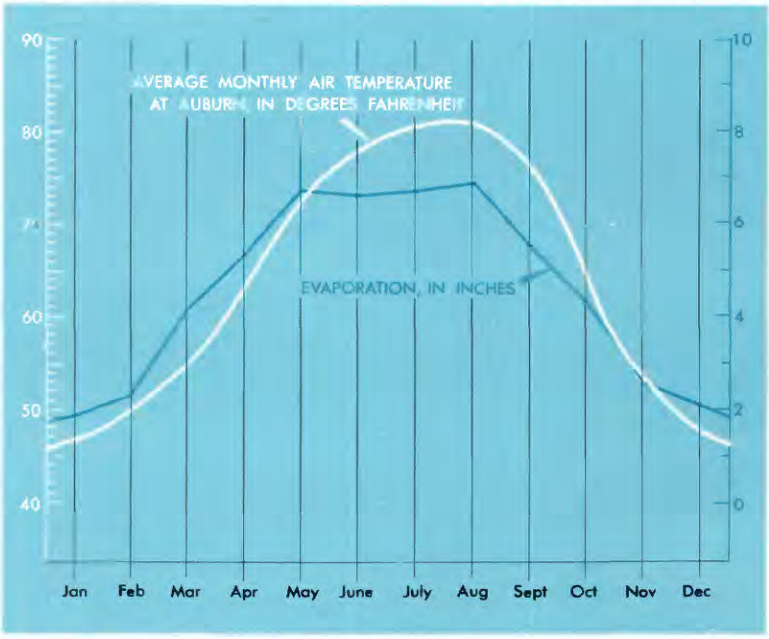

FIGURE 4.—Monthly evaporation from a pan at Lake Martin and air temperature at Auburn.