

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MAGNETIC DECLINATION IN MARYLAND.

EXPLANATORY REMARKS.

At no two periods of the earth's history is the distribution of magnetism within the earth's crust *precisely* the same. Any graphical representation of that distribution will therefore apply only to a particular time. In the present instance the *isogonic chart* or *chart of the lines of equal magnetic declination (variation)* for Maryland has been constructed for the year 1900. These lines, as is well known, connect all the places in Maryland where the angle of deviation of the compass direction from the true north and south direction is the same. They should not be confounded with the lines which would be traced if we were to start out, for example, from some point in southern Maryland and always follow the direction indicated by the north end of the compass. Such lines have been termed *magnetic meridians*.

Future reports will contain likewise the charts showing the distribution of the magnetic inclination and the intensity of the magnetic force. In order to supply the *practical demands* of the surveyor it was necessary to publish first the isogonic chart. It has been termed "preliminary," as in its construction only the 1896 results of the magnetic survey could be utilized. Still, though it is regarded as preliminary, it is nevertheless far superior to any chart embracing the same region hitherto published. The values of the declination given in the table below may undergo slight modifications in future reports, when the more precise reductions to the epoch of the chart are known. These changes, however, will be of such a nature as not to affect the practical use which the land surveyor may make of the present values.

Besides the data resulting from my last year's work and given in Table XIII, I have made use of all the material observed and collected by the Coast and Geodetic Survey in Maryland and vicinity. This