

No. 511

A Science Service Feature

Dec. 30

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ALMANAC FORECASTING

The versatile old fashioned almanac was expected, among other things, to furnish general weather forecasts throughout the year. As not even the U.S. Weather Bureau is yet ready to enter the field of long range forecasting, it is evident that these almanac forecasts were pure guess work, often obviously absurd when they attempted to be definite. But they were often so vague, both as to time and place, that it was easy to claim verification for the predictions.

In a modern almanac, Prof. C. F. Talman says "The absurdity of such prognostications must have always been recognized by intelligent people; and, in fact, as far back as 1664 we find both of the above-mentioned traits of the almanacs burlesqued in Poor Robin, the first of the comic almanacs, in such predictions as the following:

January.- There will be much frost and cold weather in Greenland.

February.- We may expect some showers of rain this month or next, or the month after that, or else we shall have a very dry spring.

(Tomorrow: Weather Hash of 1924)

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