

No. 700

A Science Service Feature

Aug. 8

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WEATHER BUREAU VS. DUMMY

The man who forecasts "fair and little change in temperature" in summer will be right about three-fourths of the time in most of the United States. The Weather Bureau can do better than this. In California, however, the "fair and no change dummy" will score over ninety-five per cent, which is often better than the Weather Bureau's record for that state. Why then, should the Weather Bureau try to make forecasts for California?

One of the important tasks of the forecaster in California is keeping rain off the drying fruit. He must not let any shower come up without warning. He will probably, therefore, forecast rain too frequently, in order to be on the safe side, and his score will be below that of the dummy, who always predicts fair weather. But, especially in California, it is a much more serious error to forecast fair for a day with rain than to forecast rain for a fair day. The most useful forecasting, thus, does not always get the highest score.

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