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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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PRACTICAL USES OF WEATHER DATA

You cannot tell the farmer or the mariner anything about the weather, though you find them willing to listen in on the radio when the weather report is broadcasted, and now and then ready to return the favor by sending in a report on the condition of their own weather. The mariner is mainly concerned with storms and the farmer with rainfall and frost. Foresters require fire-danger warnings of low humidities and strong winds.

City engineers seek rainfall statistics, factory managers must have temperature and humidity data, Gas and electric light men need cloudiness. Railroad and auto men hate heavy snows, gales, low temperatures, and unite with wire men in deprecating ice storms. Architects have to figure on wind stresses and weight of maximum snowdepth, as well as on temperature and rain leakage. Aviators avoid head or cross winds when they can, and, if possible, maintain respectful distances from thunderstorms and fogs. Finally, the physician is interested in almost all aspects of weather. The extremes of heat and cold to be endured, the prevalence of sudden changes, the dampness or aridity and the strength and duration of sunlight all have a very direct influence on man's well-being.

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