

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WHAT IS THE TEMPERATURE ?

Owners of out-door thermometers seldom can agree on the temperature and are also likely to quarrel with the Weather Bureau findings. Of course inaccurate thermometers account for many such disputes, but perhaps the character of the exposure is a still larger factor. The Boston Weather Bureau recently compared its official noon temperatures for 1925 and part of 1926 with the readings of an accurate thermometer attached to the side of a building on Washington Street. The Weather Bureau instrument is lodged in a special shelter raised above the roof. Shutters on the sides of the shelter protect it from sunlight but allow the air to circulate freely.

Comparing the noon temperature of the two instruments, Mr. Loveland found surprisingly little difference during the summer and fall. In winter and early spring, however, the official temperatures averaged lower than the street temperatures, though the difference at no time exceeded 2.5 degrees for the month. Though this seems small, it is equal to the difference between a normal and a cold or warm month. A thermometer attached to the side of a building usually receives heat from the building and reads too high. The air in city streets, furthermore, is warmed somewhat by the buildings since it is protected from the full force of the wind experienced in open stretches.

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