

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
April 13, 1927

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 6, 1927

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A TEMPERATURE MODEL

There is an permanent exhibition in the Geological Museum of Harvard University, a model, in plaster of Paris, of the mean hourly temperatures of Boston, Mass. This model was made by Andrew H. Palmer as a research project under Prof. R. DeC. Ward. It is two feet long and one foot wide, and its three dimensions show months, hours and temperatures. On one of the vertical sides lines are drawn, at equal distances apart, to show the twenty-four hours, and on the next vertical side twelve lines represent the months. The upper surface is divided horizontally into zones, representing different degrees of heat and cold, and each is colored, different shades of red being used for the higher temperatures and different shades of blue for the lower.

By means of this model it is possible to ascertain, easily and with great accuracy, the mean temperature of any hour of any month of the year. The data forming the basis of the construction were those obtained at the Boston station of the U. S. Weather Bureau during the period 1890 to 1905. The total number of observations used was 131,472!

The modeling of climatological data in clay or plaster of Paris appears to have in it some of the instructiveness of models of land forms, though it would appear necessary to develop an eye for temperature models, which is hardly required for landscape reproductions.

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