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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed July 2, 1927

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INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGY

Probably no other branch of science is so well organized from a meteorological standpoint as meteorology. The meteorologists had their "league of nations" long before one was established by the politicians. The international organization originated at a conference held at Leipzig in 1872, which was the preliminary of a formal congress held the following year at Vienna. The members of the congress organized a "permanent committee", and this has been perpetuated to the present time.

What is now known officially as the International Meteorological Organization consists of (1) a directing body, the International Meteorological Committee, all of whose members are heads of national meteorological services, and (2) a number of international "commissions", which supervise and coordinate the work of meteorologists in various special fields. For example, there is a commission on agricultural meteorology, and there are others on clouds, upper-air observations, marine meteorology, etc.

The International Committee meets every three years. At less frequent intervals are held "conferences", attended by the directors of meteorological services and independent observatories throughout the world.

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