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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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STATISTICS OF AMERICAN CLIMATE

If you want climatic statistics for any part of the United States, there are several sources from which such information can be obtained.

The best descriptive work of a general character relating to the climates of the country is "The Climates of the United States," by Prof. R. DeC. Ward, of Harvard, published in 1925. Prof. A. J. Henry's "Climatology of the United States," issued as a bulletin of the U. S. Weather Bureau, has the disadvantage of being more than twenty years old, but is an admirable work and includes much information not duplicated in Ward's book.

For detailed numerical statistics one must turn to another Weather Bureau publication entitled "Summary of the Climatological Data for the United States, by Sections." For the purposes of this work the country has been divided into 106 "sections," and the data for each are published in a separate monograph. There are some additional sections containing statistics for Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands. All these sectional publications, assembled in three large quarto volumes, constitute Weather Bureau Bulletin W. The climatic and topographic features of each section are described in a page or more of text. This is followed by records of rainfall for each year from the beginning of observations at a large number of stations in the section. Less detailed information is given concerning temperature, winds, frost dates and other elements of climate.

Splendid climatic charts of the country are a feature of the "Atlas of American Agriculture," which the United States Department of Agriculture has been publishing in installments for some years. This work is still far from completion.

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