

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
Sept. 3, 1927.

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed August 27, 1927.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

WEATHER BUREAU "KIOSKS"

Small pavilions containing meteorological instruments and charts, including the current day's weather map, may be seen on frequented streets or public squares in several American cities. The first of the "kiosks", as they are called, was erected by the Weather Bureau in 1908 and there are now about 35 of them in the United States. More or less similar pavilions have been erected extensively in European cities, where many of them serve primarily for advertising purposes.

The instruments in the Weather Bureau kiosk, which are all in working order, include a self-registering rain-gauge, the receiver of which is at the top of the kiosk, a common thermometer, a combined maximum and minimum thermometer, a thermograph, a hair hygrometer, and often an aneroid barometer.

The kiosk is a popular institution and is instructive as an exhibit of meteorological instruments and placards, but its instrumental records are not of much scientific value. The structure consists almost entirely of massive iron castings, which vigorously absorb and conduct the heat of the sun. This construction, coupled with inadequate ventilation, often causes the thermometers and thermograph to read much too high in summer. The proximity of buildings or trees often impairs the value of the rainfall record.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE,  
21st and B Sts.,  
Washington, D.C.