

A Science Service Feature

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! WHY THE WEATHER !

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

WORLD WEATHER RECORDS

With the aid of funds supplied by John A. Roebling, the Smithsonian Institution has compiled and published a monumental collection of weather records from 387 stations widely scattered over the world. In a volume of about 1,200 pages this work presents mean monthly values of temperature, rainfall and barometric pressure for the entire period of trustworthy observations at the places selected. Several of the records cover more than a century, the oldest of all being the temperature record for Charleston, South Carolina, which was begun by Dr. John Lining in 1738.

The plan of this undertaking was formulated at the International Meteorological Conference held at Utrecht in 1923. Dr. Felix Exner, of Vienna, was made responsible for the collection of data from European stations; Sir Gilbert Walker, of London, for the stations of Asia; H. H. Clayton, of Canton, Massachusetts, for the stations of North America; Robert C. Mossman, of the Argentine Meteorological Office, for those of South America; and Dr. G. C. Simpson, director of the British Meteorological Office, for the stations of Africa, Australia and the oceans.

The task of editing the work was assigned to Mr. Clayton, and occupied him and a staff of assistants for nearly three years.

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SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and B Sts.,
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