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A Science Service Feature

: WHY THE WEATHER : Mailed November 5, 1927

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COLLECTING WIND NAMES

If you have a taste for collecting, and would try your hand at something less commonplace than postage-stamps, beetles or book-plates, I commend to your attention the names of the winds. I can assure you from my personal experience that treasures of discovery await the hobbyist in this field. The names of the asteroids, or minor planets, are enumerated in reference books, and a polite petition addressed to Chicago would possibly bring you a complete catalogue of the Pullman cars; but the names of the population ruled over by Aeolus are scattered through a vast literature, in many languages, and not a tithe of them can be found in any one dictionary.

Though, from the point of view of modern science, most of these names are quite superfluous, hundreds of them have been handed down from pre-scientific days. My collection, which long ago included all but the rarities, still grows at the rate of dozens a year. I have, for example, lately added to it "chanduy," the designation of an invigorating wind that prevails in the dry season at Guayaquil.

The name of the "pontias", which blows by night in from a valley near the little town of Nyons, France, has found its way into some American dictionaries, but how many meteorologists know that a whole book was once published about this obscure breezelet? It was written by one Gabriel Boule, "counseiller et historio-graphs du roy," and the title-page is dated 1647.

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