

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 23, 1928

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THE DAVOS OBSERVATORY

At Davos, the well-known health resort in the high Alps, there is a meteorological observatory unlike any other in the world. For more than 20 years the chief task pursued at this institution has been a searching investigation of all the factors entering into what is sometimes called "altitude climate". Elaborate studies have been made of solar radiation in all its phases and much light has been thrown upon the physical phenomena of the "sun cure", which is so successfully practiced at Davos, Leysin and other places in the Alps. Much attention has also been devoted to atmospheric electricity, especially with reference to its possible physiological effects. Several new types of apparatus have been developed at this establishment.

The observatory was founded in 1906 by a German, Dr. C. Dorno. For many years this savant maintained the institution entirely at his own expense. After the world war he found himself impoverished by the depreciation of German securities and currency, but fortunately a number of Swiss scientific men came to the rescue of the institution, which was annexed to a medical foundation known as the "Institute for Alpine Physiology and Tuberculosis Research", while Dorno was retained as director.

Dr. Dorno has just retired from active service and has been succeeded by Dr. F. Lindholm, a Swedish meteorologist.

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