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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology

A CITY OF VARIED RAINFALL

All over the Hawaiian Islands are found striking contrasts in the normal amounts of rainfall, due to differences of altitude and different exposure to the prevailing winds. How great these contrasts may be within a small area is illustrated in the city of Honolulu. Writing of the records obtained in different parts of the town, E.F. Loveridge, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, says:

"At the office of the Weather Bureau, in the downtown district, the annual rainfall averages 29 inches, while in the upper part of Manoa Valley it exceeds 100 inches. The variation seems to be entirely dependent, or nearly so, on the proximity of the Koolau Range, and as we go down King Street from the business quarter toward Kaimuki the rainfall increases, because the range is slightly nearer; but before we reach Kaimuki the rainfall again decreases because the mean elevation in that part of the range is lower and the winds blow more parallel to it.

"The high points, such as Punchbowl, Pacific Heights, Alewa Heights and Round Top probably do not increase the rainfall materially, because they are not of sufficient bulk, but records to show this are wanting. It is possible that the rainfall is actually less on these high points than at corresponding distances from the range in the valleys, because the winds tend to blow along the latter as they pass through the openings of the range."

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