

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A WEATHER OBSERVATORY ON OLYMPUS

It is peculiarly fitting that Mount Olympus, from whose summit, according to classical mythology, terrestrial weather was once regulated by Zeus, is about to become the site of a meteorological observatory. Plans for this institution have been made by Saturnino Ximenes, who will construct the observatory at his own expense for the benefit of science, and who made an ascent of the mountain last year in order to investigate the feasibility of his project. The proposed site is so difficult of access that four years will probably be required for the building of the observatory. Meanwhile it is planned to install two small weather stations on the lower slopes of the mountain; one at the convent of St. Dionysius, on the east side, and the other at the village of Kokkinopolo, on the west side. These will probably be completed by next January, and will telegraph regular weather reports to Athens.

The several peaks of Olympus are upwards of 9,500 feet above sea level. The ancients believed that they touched the heavens and were above the reach of weather, in

"The lucid interspace of world and world,
Where never creeps a cloud, or moves a wind,
Nor ever falls the least white star of snow,
Nor ever lowest roll of thunder moans."

The Olympus observatory will be one of the highest in Europe, though little over half as high as the one on Mount Elbruz, in the Caucasus, with an altitude of about 18,490 feet above sea level.

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