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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

CENTRAL PARK OBSERVATORY

Weather observatories maintained by municipalities are not common, but there are a few famous examples. The city of Liverpool, England, has had one since 1847. The city of Paris operates a large meteorological observatory at Montsouris and several subordinate weather stations in other parts of the city. New York City founded a meteorological observatory in Central Park in 1869, a year before the United States Signal Service, the predecessor of the Weather Bureau, established a station in the same city.

For many years the Central Park Observatory, under the direction of Dr. Daniel Draper, not only maintained comprehensive climatic records but was also the scene of various scientific investigations on the part of the director. In the year 1911 the retirement of Dr. Draper, together with the unwillingness of the city to continue its financial support of the observatory, led to an arrangement whereby the institution passed under the dual control of the United States Weather Bureau and the city of New York. The federal bureau has equipped the observatory with modern instruments and details some of its regular observers to carry on the work there, while the city continues to publish the results.

In 1919 the observatory was moved from the old Arsenal building to the Belvidere, near the center of the park, where it is now located.

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SCIENCE SERVICE,  
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