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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

MOUNTAIN RAINFALL MEASUREMENTS

A novel campaign of mountain rainfall measurements has been under way this summer in the state of New Hampshire and is to continue into the autumn. Rainfall records have hitherto been kept on only one mountain in the state -- the summit of Mount Washington, where measurements were made for sixteen years or so, between 1871 and 1890. The average rainfall there was found to be over 80 inches a year, or twice as much as over New Hampshire generally.

In the present undertaking an effort has been made to secure records at every place on a New Hampshire mountain where a man is known to be available daily or for some part of each day during the summer. Special interest is felt in the highest and most central group of stations, on the Mount Washington range, consisting of the huts of the Appalachian Mountain Club, at Mount Madison and the Lakes of the Clouds, the Halfway House on the Mount Washington summit road, and the Summit House itself, with comparison stations at the foot of the range at Randolph Peabody River guard station, Pinkham Notch hut, and Notchland, in Crawford Notch. Similar groups of mountain and valley stations have been established elsewhere, so that much instructive information will doubtless be obtained concerning the relative amounts of rain falling at different altitudes, the effects of topography and exposure, etc.

Most of the observers are forest fire watchmen of the state forestry department or guards of the U. S. Forest Service. Besides these temporary stations, the permanent stations of the U. S. Weather Bureau will furnish data for comparison.

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