A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed September 6, 1928

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MANY-SIDED METEOROLOGY

Meteorology, the science of the atmosphere and its phenomena, is much broader in its scope than most people imagine. It is so broad that few of the general treatises on the subject are even approximately complete. The meteorologist must have a good-sized library of books at hand to supply answers to the various questions that arise in connection with his profession.

Besides the ordinary phenomena coming under the head of "weather", and the methods of weather forecasting, meteorology deals with such diverse topics as the composition of the atmosphere, its electrical, optical and acoustic properties, solar radiation, the climates of past geological ages and the manifold effects of atmospheric conditions on animal and plant life.

Climatology and climatography are branches of meteorology. The former is concerned with climatic phenomena in general while the latter is devoted to descriptive and statistical accounts of the climates prevailing in different parts of the world.

Among the more important branches of applied meteorology are the following: Agricultural meteorology, marine meteorology, aeronautical meteorology, medical and physiological meteorology, commercial meteorology and military meteorology.

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