

A Science Service Feature

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† WHY THE WEATHER †

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SOME INCIDENTAL WEATHER RECORDS

A vast amount of information concerning the weather of particular times and places is strewn through personal memoirs, diaries, and collections of letters, published and unpublished. Indeed it is probable that if a systematic effort were made to assemble and digest all the meteorological information that is fairly easy of access merely in published documents of this sort, the resulting compilation would prove a very valuable supplement to the existing formal records of weather as observed by meteorologists.

An indication of what may be done in that line is found in a little book entitled "The Weather Calendar", published at Oxford, England, in 1917. Between its covers Mrs. Henry Head has gathered passages from letters and diaries telling of the weather at various places in England on every day throughout the year. There are generally two or three quotations for each date. The years vary over a wide range of time, from the 17th century to the 20th.

Here are two of the briefer extracts for December:

December 1, 1795. "Though so wet, yesterday was quite warm. Today is as soft as possible."—Walpole.

December 7, 1662. "A great snow, and so to church this morning with my wife."—Pepys.

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