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NAMES OF WEATHER INSTRUMENTS

Meteorologists use a variety of instruments that make continuous automatic records of the different weather elements. A barograph, for example, traces a curve that shows the fluctuations of barometric pressure; a thermograph registers the temperature; a hygrograph the humidity; an anemograph the wind; and so forth.

Such instruments are generally run by clockwork, and the records are traced on a moving sheet of paper. It is often found desirable to have two or more elements recorded on the same sheet, and thus we have several different combinations of instruments. The multiple instruments are named according to the elements they register, and this leads to a curious situation.

A recorder of pressure and temperature may be called either a barothermograph or a thermobarograph. Both names are in actual use. A temperature-humidity recorder is a thermohygrograph or a hygrothermograph -- according to taste. The complexity of names would be bad enough if the combinations were limited to pairs of instruments, but in some cases three or four elements are registered by the same device, and then the number of possible "permutations" of its name becomes truly bewildering.

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