A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RADIO WEATHER MAPS

Thanks to radio, the data for drawing weather maps of most of the land areas of the globe and also much of the ocean are now constantly at the disposal of anybody on land, on sea or in the air who possesses a suitable radio receiving set, the knowledge and skill required for drawing the map, a base-map on which to draw it, and, last but not least, the necessary amount of time and patience. This situation has prevailed for several years.

A vast improvement, now in painfully slow process of arrival, is the broadcasting of complete weather maps for similar areas. As long ago as the year 1918 Prof. Max Dieckmann, in Germany, devised a method of transmitting simple sketches and diagrams by radio, which was used by the German army before the close of the war. The applicability of this process to broadcasting the main features of a weather map was eventually recognized, and successful experiments in broadcasting such a map were made at Munich in the summer and autumn of 1925. The results were so satisfactory that in March, 1926, the Bavarian meteorological service began the regular broadcasting from Munich, every day at noon, of a small weather map of Europe, based on observations taken the same morning. This daily broadcast has continued to the present time. Recently the Munich map was successfully received on the airship "Graf Zeppelin".

In August, 1926, the United States Weather Bureau began issuing daily from Arlington a weather map of the eastern United States and the western Atlantic. The process was devised by C. Francis Jenkins. The map was much more elaborate than those issued in Germany, but also occupied much more time in reception. Apparatus for receiving this map was installed on two naval vessels, and experiments were continued for some months, but were ultimately suspended pending hoped-for improvements, which have not yet been realized.

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