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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A NEW GUIDE TO THE CLOUDS

International agreement concerning the classification and naming of clouds was first reached in the year 1891, when a conference of meteorologists held at Munich voted to adopt a system proposed by Professor Hildebrandsson, of Sweden, and the Honorable Ralph Abercromby, of Great Britain. At the same conference a committee was appointed to prepare a volume of pictures illustrating the different cloud types, for the guidance of observers, and this led to the publication in 1896 of the first edition of the International Cloud Atlas, containing a series of colored cloud pictures and a descriptive text in French, English and German. A second edition of this work, introducing a few changes of minor importance, was published in 1910. This has been out of print for many years.

Recently a committee headed by General Delcambre, director of the French Meteorological Service, has been compiling a third edition of the Atlas, which is to be a much more elaborate work than its predecessors. In provisional form this work has just been submitted to the various meteorological services of the world for criticism and comment, and a full discussion of it is on the program of the international meteorological conference that is to meet in Copenhagen next September. In its present form the new edition contains 142 plates of cloud photographs, many of great beauty. Several of the pictures were taken above the clouds from aircraft. One interesting novelty is the use of schematic drawings of all clouds shown in the photographs, for the purpose of bringing out, with the aid of reference letters and explanatory legends, their distinctive features.

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