

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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METEOROLOGY FOR THE TRAVELER

Prof. Robert DeC. Ward, who teaches climatology at Harvard, knows the climate of remote regions through much personal experience and he has just been renewing acquaintance with some of them in a voyage around the globe. Eventually he plans to write a "guide-book to the world's weather and climates." The idea underlying this novel project is that travelers have opportunities to observe phenomena of the atmosphere that are quite as interesting as scenery, historic sites, monuments, ruins, art galleries and the other things that now usually figure in guide-books. Such books often contain a certain amount of practical information about climatic conditions as affecting health or indicating the kind of clothing the traveler should take on his journey; but where is there one that describes climatic phenomena as objective points of travel?

Professor Ward asks in a recent account of his plan: "Would not a round-the-world traveler find more enjoyment on his trip if he knew something about the causes and characteristics of the prevailing westerly winds, the trade winds and the doldrums? Would he not find it worth while to be on the lookout for a norther, or monsoon, or even a tropical cyclone? Would he not gain added information concerning the life, the habits and the occupations of the people of strange lands if he knew in advance something about the climates of these countries and the effects of the climates on man and his work?"

Undoubtedly he would, and it is to be hoped that Professor Ward's projected guide-book will soon see the light.

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