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▲ Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ANOTHER RADIO WEATHER MAP

The latest country to undertake experiments in the broadcasting of weather maps by radio is Great Britain. According to a plan that went into effect June 18, a map prepared by the Meteorological Office showing weather conditions over the British Isles and the neighboring seas at 7 a.m. is broadcast from the wireless station at Daventry between 2:00 and 2:25 p.m. of the same day every Tuesday and Thursday. The Fulograph process is used in these broadcasts. The map is traced at the receiving station on a sheet of starch-iodide paper, which turns purple wherever traversed by a small platinum stylus actuated by the radio receiver. The resulting document is rather crude in appearance, but compares favorably with the radio maps that have been transmitted daily from Munich by the Dieckmann process for the past three years and have proved to be of practical value; having been received, for example, on board the airship "Graf Zeppelin" during some of her cruises.

The transmission of complete weather maps by radio offers such striking advantages over the process of merely broadcasting the data from which maps may be drawn that it is undoubtedly destined to become a common practice in the near future. Some of the possibilities in this line were demonstrated in the year 1926, when, in addition to the promising experiments carried out by the U.S. Weather Bureau, the Deutsche Seewarte, at Hamburg, transmitted a radio weather map of the North Atlantic that was received satisfactorily on board a ship 2,500 miles distant.
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