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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A PRIZE FOR A LONG-RANGE FORECAST

Professional meteorologists are sometimes accused of looking askance at all attempts to predict the weather for more than a few days in advance. As a matter of fact, though the undertakings of the charlatan and the ignoramus in this field are viewed with as much disfavor as ever by the scientific weatherman, many articles are now published every year in meteorological journals bearing upon the problems of long-range weather forecasting and, as a rule, expressing a hopeful attitude on the subject.

It is significant of this situation that the Austrian Meteorological Society has just offered a prize of 1,000 Austrian shillings (about \$140) for the best paper submitted to the society before March 1, 1931, embodying a long-range weather forecast for Austria, based upon definite meteorological data and supported by appropriate mathematical and physical reasoning. The paper must be written in German and bear an identifying motto, but not the author's name, which, with his address, are to be sent with the manuscript in a separate sealed envelope.

A competition in practical weather forecasting (not of the long-range variety) was held in connection with the International Exposition at Liège, Belgium, in 1905, under the auspices of the Belgian Astronomical Society, and the prize of 5,000 francs was won by M. Gabriel Guilbert, of France.

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