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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RADIO AND THE WEATHER MAP

While the process of mapping the weather as a basis of forecasting was made possible by the development of the electric telegraph in the middle of the nineteenth century, revolutionary improvements in this process have been brought about during the present century by the development of radio communication. Not only has radio added the oceans to the map by supplying current reports from ships, but the general substitution of radio for wire telegraphy as a means of inter-changing weather reports between countries and continents, which took place after the close of the world war, has greatly facilitated the preparation of weather maps and increased the amount of information they contain.

The distribution of weather reports by radio, though it is now more or less world-wide, is most fully developed in Europe. By common agreement, each European country broadcasts the reports collected within its own territory at certain fixed hours each day. There is not only a continuous succession of these broadcasts from midnight to midnight, but they are so numerous that there are generally two or more in progress, on different wave-lengths, at one time.

In addition to the national broadcasts, there are several broadcasts every day from certain high-power stations, such as the Eiffel Tower, of "international collective reports", which include data from numerous selected stations in Europe and northern Africa, and also, in many cases, from more distant parts of the northern hemisphere, including Siberia, America, the Atlantic Ocean and the Far East.

The weather reports thus distributed are, in general, much more comprehensive than those distributed in former times by wire telegraphy.

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