

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE INTERNATIONAL CLOUD YEAR

A discussion of proposed changes in the international system of classifying clouds is on the program of the meteorological conference that meets in Copenhagen the middle of this month. (Editors: This means September.) It is interesting to recall in this connection an undertaking of a generation ago that furnished a large part of the knowledge now possessed by meteorologists concerning the average heights, movements and prevalence of the different types of cloud in various parts of the world.

The plan of having cloud observations made according to uniform methods for a period of a year at selected stations in different countries was adopted at the international meteorological conference held at Munich in 1891; and a committee was appointed to arrange the details. Beginning May 1, 1896, detailed observations of clouds, including measurements of their heights with theodolites, were made at Bosskopp, Norway; Upsala, Sweden; Pavlovsk near St. Petersburg, Russia; Potsdam, Germany; Trappes near Paris, France; Toronto, Canada; Washington, D.C., and Blue Hill near Boston, in the United States; Allahabad, India; and Manila, Philippine Islands. Observations of cloud movements were made by simpler methods at many subordinate stations.

Most of the collaborating countries eventually published more or less complete reports of these observations. The enterprise lives in meteorological history as the "International Cloud Year".

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