

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
December 21, 1929.

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 14, 1929

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THE MOTORING WEATHERMAN

A chart showing the horizontal distribution of weather elements over a region of small area, such as a single town or township, often shows striking contrasts between places not far apart. On a frosty night, for example, minimum temperatures may have a wide range within a radius of a mile or two from a given point. There are even more remarkable local diversities of rainfall during individual showers. Areas of fog are often very "patchy." Hail is notoriously local in occurrence. And so on.

Records and charts of these diversities can, of course, be obtained through the cooperative efforts of numerous well-distributed observers located at fixed points, but they can also be obtained with a fair degree of success through a survey made by a single observer, provided with portable instruments and means of rapid locomotion. The obvious vehicle for this purpose is the automobile.

Last summer a German meteorologist, Dr. Albert Peppler, made use of an automobile to obtain "cross-sections" of temperature in and about the city of Karlsruhe during a spell of calm, hot weather. For about two hours in the early afternoon he made long runs, some in an east-west direction, some in a north-south direction, measuring the temperature from time to time with a ventilated thermometer. This instrument was chosen because its readings were not affected by radiation of heat from the automobile or other surrounding objects.

Dr. Peppler has published the results of his survey in the form of a chart, which shows remarkable contrasts of temperature, especially between the city and the surrounding open country.

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