

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed June 4, 1930.

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Authority on Meteorology.

WEATHER GLOSSARIES

Definitions of meteorological terms found in general dictionaries do not always conform to either scientific or official usage, and no large special glossary of meteorology has yet appeared, though a vast collection of material toward one has been assembled during the past twenty years by the librarian of the United States Weather Bureau at Washington. The same bureau has published a brief glossary as a section of its "Instructions to Marine Meteorological Observers" (5th edition, Washington, 1929.) This defines about 350 terms, including, besides expressions familiar to everybody, a number that are comparatively little known, such as "barocyclonometer," "brontide," "callina," "garua," and "katisallobar."

The British Meteorological Office publishes a glossary that defines comparatively few terms but treats many of them at considerable length in the style of an encyclopedia. A considerable proportion of these terms, however, belong to the general vocabulary of physics and are not exclusively or primarily meteorological.

The most pretentious dictionary of meteorology is that issued in six parts between 1926 and 1929 by the National Meteorological Office of France. It is, of course, in French and, like the British work, is encyclopedic in form, devoting, in some cases, several pages to a single topic. It is profusely illustrated with pictures, charts and diagrams.

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