

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 22, 1930.

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THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

One of the most ambitious undertakings in the history of meteorology is remembered as the "International Polar Year" of 1882-3. Fifteen expeditions were sent to the polar regions by seven different nations, and weather observations were maintained for one entire year according to a uniform plan at the various stations established by these parties in high latitudes.

The fiftieth anniversary of this enterprise is to be commemorated in a fitting manner by carrying out similar investigations on an even larger scale during a year, beginning in 1932. This project has been a subject of much discussion at recent meteorological meetings in Europe and a special commission has been appointed by the International Meteorological Organization to make the necessary arrangements.

According to present plans, numerous special stations will be established in the Arctic, which will work in conjunction with the many permanent stations now in operation in that part of the world, while several stations will also be maintained in and about the Antarctic. Terrestrial magnetism is included in the observation program, and much attention will be given to observing and photographing auroras. Conditions in the upper atmosphere will be observed with the aid of pilot-balloons and sounding-balloons, and some of the latter will probably be equipped for reporting their observations automatically by radio. It is possible, also, that robots of a more elaborate character, designed for taking and broadcasting weather for an entire year without human aid, will be dropped on the polar ice from aircraft.

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