

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
October 30, 1930.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed October 23, 1930.

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BIG WEATHER INSTRUMENTS

An English concern engaged in the manufacture of furniture polish has lately installed on the side of its factory chimney a barometer dial 9 feet in diameter. The scale shows the usual graduation, in inches and fractions thereof, with the legends "stormy," "rain," "change," etc., in huge letters. The pointer is connected by an ingenious mechanism with a large aneroid barometer indoors. On the same chimney, below the barometer dial, is the semblance of a gigantic thermometer. This carries a scale of Fahrenheit degrees and an indicator, supposed to represent the top of the mercurial column, which moves up and down with changes in temperature. Its movements are controlled by a real thermometer inside the building. This installation is not unique, as there is at least one similar to it in the tower of the Deutsches Museum at Munich, along with a hygrometer and wind gage.

The largest barometer in the world containing a liquid column is the one erected at Faenza, Italy, in 1908, as a monument to Evangelista Torricelli, who was born in the same town in 1608. The liquid in this instrument is olive oil and when the pressure is "one atmosphere" the height of the column is about 35 3/4 feet.

A dry-and-wet bulb thermometer as tall as a man was exhibited at the meeting of the American Public Health Association in Minneapolis last year.

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Washington, D.C.