

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
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March 6, 1931

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 27, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

PICTURES OF CLIMATE

Much interesting information about climate can be presented quite effectively by means of pictures, though this method is little used by climatographers. An example of what can be done in this direction will be found in the Scientific American for February, 1927. Here you will find, under the title "Pictures of American Climate," five halftones illustrating some outstanding features of climate in the western United States, with brief explanatory text. One picture shows a well-defined snow-line on the slope of the Portneuf Mountains, in Idaho. Another gives an idea of the enormous snowfall of the Cascades, which, "lying athwart the prevailing oceanic winds, are the mightiest snow-makers found in the country." The response of vegetation to excessive aridity is illustrated by a view of an Arizona desert, with giant cactus and mesquite. A picture of the weather station in Death Valley recalls the fact that this spot holds the unenviable distinction of having registered the highest air temperature in America. Lastly, an interesting example of architectural response to climate is seen in a view of the pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico, where "the flat roofs denote a light rainfall; while the thick adobe walls maintain an equable temperature indoors with a wide range outside."

Several photographs illustrating effects of climate in different parts of the world were published by Dr. H. R. Mill in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society for July, 1901.

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21st and B Sts.  
Washington, D. C.