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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 30, 1931

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GULF STREAM TEMPERATURES

Meteorologists have long recognized the fact that any marked change in the temperature of the Gulf Stream and of its eastward extension, the Gulf Stream Drift, must affect barometric pressure and winds over the North Atlantic and must be reflected in some ways in the weather of Europe and North America. As long ago as the year 1846 an Englishman, Colonel Sabine, suggested the taking of regular observations of the strength of this current at the Straits of Florida as an aid in forecasting European weather.

An analogous idea has led in recent years to the taking of water temperatures at these straits, under the general direction of Prof. C. F. Brooks, of Clark University and the American Meteorological Society. The measurements are made by trained observers on the car ferries that ply between Key West and Havana. One of the vessels is equipped with a sea-water thermograph, which makes a continuous record during each voyage.

From the data thus obtained, together with records of the speed of the current, as determined from the plotted drift of the ferries, approximate figures are now available of the number of heat units carried through the straits each day. Meanwhile several vessels that cross the Gulf Stream farther north in their regular voyages are making similar measurements, so that a good beginning has been made toward "budgeting" the heat supply of the famous stream that sailors have long called, with good reason, the "Weather Breeder."

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