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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MUSICAL ANEMOMETERS

Among the many curious scientific instruments devised by the German inventor Jacob Leupold (1674-1727) was one that emitted musical notes of different pitch to indicate the direction of the wind, and he devised another in which the strength of the wind was indicated in the same manner. This idea was taken up again in the latter part of the eighteenth century by a Frenchman named Delamanon, whose "musical anemometer" is described in the Journal de Physique for 1782.

Delamanon's instrument was a species of organ, comprising 21 pipes giving different notes and covering a range of three octaves. The pipes were arranged with valves so constructed that the wind blowing on them raised one and closed all the rest. The resulting tones thus indicated different degrees of wind force from a light breeze up to a furious tempest.

Eight other pipes, directed toward different points of the compass, also emitted different tones and thus showed the direction of the wind. Two notes were therefore always heard from this instrument when the wind was blowing, and the listener, provided he had a good ear for music, was thus supposed to be able to keep tab at all times on the wind's behavior.

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