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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE TRAVELING CLIMATOLOGIST

Prof. Robert DeCourcy Ward, of Harvard University, greatest of American climatologists, whose life came to an untimely end last month, was the author of several standard books, including a model work on the climates of the United States, but he did not live long enough to carry out a long-cherished plan of writing a book that would have been unique of its kind -- a guide-book to the world's climates designed for the information of travelers. He knew the climates of most countries through personal contact, for he spent much time in traveling for the sake of acquiring such knowledge. His colleague, Prof. C.F. Brooks, writes of him:

"On his travels Prof. Ward kept a climatological eye and pen busily engaged. His small barograph wrote a continuous record of the voyages across the pressure and wind belts to and around South America and around the world. Thermometers showed the contrasts in temperature. He wrote of his observations as he went and contributed finished articles from the field, or at the conclusion of a voyage stepped down the gangplank with the account of his voyage ready to send to the Monthly Weather Review or the Geographical Review. The story of his last trip, to the West Indies last July and August, returned to his home in printed form the day he died."

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