A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 18, 1932.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

TABLES FOR WEATHERMEN

The Smithsonian Institution has just published the fifth revised edition of its well-known "Meteorological Tables," which, in their original form, were compiled by Dr. Arnold Guyot and first published in the year 1852. The "Smithsonian Tables" are an indispensable tool of weathermen all over the world. They include, for example, tables for the interconversion of temperature scales -- absolute, centigrade, Fahrenheit and Reamur -- for the interconversion of metric and English units of length, and for various other analogous operations. If you seek information concerning the velocity of the wind at some place in continental Europe you are likely to find it stated in meters per second; a glance at the Smithsonian Tables gives you the equivalent in miles per hour.

The work contains tables for reducing barometer readings to standard temperature and standard gravity; for determining heights by the barometer; for getting the relative humidity from readings of the dry-bulb and wet-bulb thermometers; tables for the possible duration of sunshine throughout the year in all latitudes, for the duration of astronomical and civil twilight, and for the weight of a cubic centimeter of air under various physical conditions. There are lists and descriptions of meteorological symbols and the names of clouds. Such are a few of the 116 tables in a book of 282 pages.

The work of revision was done at the Weather Bureau, mainly by Dr. H.H. Kimball, and W.W. Reed of the same bureau, contributes an up-to-date list of the principal meteorological stations of the world, with their geographical positions and altitudes.

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