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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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CHINESE WEATHERMEN

China has become modernized and westernized in scientific as well as military matters, and she possesses, among other things, at least a good beginning of a national meteorological service organized and equipped after the models of Europe and America. This service, which is called the Institute of Meteorology and is about four years old, is entirely distinct from the well-known unofficial service long maintained by French Jesuits, with headquarters at Shanghai.

The main observatory is located at Nanking and the director is a Chinaman, Dr. Coching Chu, who spent some years as a student in the United States. A weather map, based on radio reports from about 60 places in China and neighboring countries, is drawn every day, and forecasts for Nanking and vicinity are broadcast each evening in Chinese. The predictions also appear in the Nanking daily papers the next morning. Besides periodical statistical reports, the institute has issued some scientific memoirs in Chinese and English and two Chinese meteorological handbooks, and is about to publish a Chinese edition of the International Cloud Atlas. The program of observations includes upper-air studies with balloons and airplanes and measurements of solar radiation. Last but not least, this young institution is spreading a knowledge of weather science in China - chiefly, it appears, for the benefit of aviation - by conducting courses of instruction.

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