

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
April 21, 1932.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 14, 1932.

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CLIMATOGRAPHY FOR AIRMEN

Until quite recently we have usually thought of climate as a thing peculiar to the portion of the atmosphere close to the earth's surface. Now, however, with the advent of aerial travel and transport on a world-wide scale, a definite conception of upper-air climate has taken shape and it has already given rise to a certain amount of literature. Thus in the great Koeppen-Geiger "Handbook of Climatology," now in course of publication in Germany, an installment recently issued is a discussion of the "climatology of the free atmosphere," by Prof. A. Wagner.

In our own country there has lately appeared a somewhat voluminous account of the aeronautical climatology of the United States, compiled by the Weather Bureau and issued by the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce as a part of a bulletin entitled "General Airway Information." In this work each state is taken up in alphabetical order and information is given concerning the features of its climate, both at the earth's surface and aloft, that are of practical interest to aviators; such as the average cloudiness and its seasonal variations, the frequency of dense and light fogs, the amount of good and bad visibility, the prevalence of rain, snow and ice, the frequency of thunderstorms, the prevailing direction and force of both surface and upper winds, and the incidence of winds strong enough to affect materially the operation of aircraft.

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