

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
April 28, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 21, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

ROBOT WEATHER STATIONS

A feature of the International Polar Year of meteorological, magnetic and auroral observations, beginning next August, will probably be a somewhat extensive use of apparatus designed to report weather conditions by radio at regular intervals without the aid of a human observer or operator. Instruments for this purpose have been in course of development for some years, especially in Russia and Germany.

In the polar regions, and perhaps also in lower latitudes, it is proposed to attach some of these "robot" weather stations to buoys, anchored in shallow portions of the ocean. Others will probably be placed on islands, and still others on mountaintops. Lastly, there is talk of installing some of them on drifting ice in the polar seas. In the latter case, the drifting station would be operated in connection with two fixed stations on neighboring shores from which, by means of radio bearings, its position could be obtained at the time of each observation.

The radio transmitters of these stations will be operated by storage batteries. It is stated that batteries having sufficient energy to operate a radio set three times a day for a period of two years without renewal and also to function at low temperatures are now available.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D. C.