

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
June 21, 1932

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed June 14, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

THE CENTRAL PARK OBSERVATORY

One of the most famous weather observatories in the world is located in Central Park, New York. Though now operated jointly by the United States Weather Bureau and the City of New York, it is actually a year older than the Federal meteorological service, having been founded by an act of the New York State legislature in 1869, and for many years it was controlled exclusively by the city.

The man whose efforts led to the establishment of this observatory and who served as its director from 1869 to 1911 died last December. He was Dr. Daniel Draper, son of the distinguished Anglo-American scientific man and writer, Dr. John William Draper. The younger Draper was of a mechanical turn of mind and he installed at the observatory a number of self-registering meteorological instruments of his own invention.

Until 1919 the observatory occupied quarters in the old Arsenal building, near the southeast corner of the park. This building gradually fell into a ruinous condition, and was finally abandoned. The present location is in the Belvidere, near the center of the park. The weather records made here are published in detail by the city, and, on account of the location in the midst of a large park, are more representative of the natural climatic conditions of New York City than those made at the regular Weather Bureau station, which is situated at the top of a downtown skyscraper.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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