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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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EUROPE'S MOUNTAIN WEATHER STATIONS

Weather observatories perched on lofty mountaintops are rare in North America as compared with the number of such establishments in Europe. On one European summit - the Hohenpeissenberg, in Bavaria, with an altitude of 3,182 feet - weather observations have been made ever since the year 1781. They have been made at the Great St. Bernard Hospice (8,127 feet) since 1807, and on the Schneekoppe (5,282 feet), the highest peak of the Riesengebirge, since 1824.

The observatory, designed mainly for astronomical rather than meteorological studies, that P.J.C. Janssen erected in 1893 on the shifting snows at the top of Mount Blanc, the highest Alpine summit, has long since vanished, and the one described in its title as "meteorological, physical and glaciological" built at a lower level (14,300 feet) on the same mountain by Joseph Vallot in 1898 appears to have languished since the death of its founder in 1925. The observatory on Monte Rosa (14,960 feet), in the Italian Alps, conducts a wide range of researches, in which meteorology is somewhat subordinate. The same may be said of the splendid research institution opened in the summer of 1931 on the Jungfrauoch (11,340 feet), which enjoys the advantage over most high-level scientific stations of being at the terminus of a mountain railroad, running the year round.

Of the observatories devoted primarily to meteorology now in operation on European mountains the most famous are those on the Sonnblick (10,190 feet) in Austria, the Säntis (8,202 feet) in Switzerland, the Zugspitze (9,718 feet) in Germany, and the Pic du Midi (9,380 feet) and the Puy-de-Dôme (4,813 feet) in France.

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