

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
March 6, 1933

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed February 27, 1933.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

MISCELLANIES

Most rain-gauges are cylindrical vessels from a few inches to a foot in diameter, but at the Rothamsted Experimental Station for agricultural research in England there has been used ever since the year 1851 a huge gauge of rectangular shape, the horizontal dimensions of which are 7 feet 3.12 inches by 6 feet. It thus collects the rain falling over an area of one-thousandth of an acre. It is probably by far the biggest rain-gauge in the world.

In the year 1930 - the latest for which world-wide statistics on the subject are available - there were 370 radio stations in the world that regularly broadcast weather forecasts. Of these 136 were in Europe and 192 in North and Central America. The average time devoted by each of the European stations to broadcasting weather forecasts and bulletins was more than 84 hours a year.

The U.S. Lighthouse Service states that on December 11, 1932, fog signals at light stations at the entrance to San Francisco Bay were operated 2 1/2 hours on account of a heavy fall of snow. [This is believed to be the first time that a snow-fall in that region has been heavy enough to require the sounding of fog signals.]

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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