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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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TWO GOOD BOOKS ON WEATHER

Sound books on meteorology, the science of weather, are deplorably scarce, and that statement applies both to textbooks and to books addressed to the general reader. Moreover, of works that can be recommended the great majority are by European authors and are not particularly well adapted to the requirements of North Americans. Hence it is worth while to mention two brief treatises, written on this side of the Atlantic, that are excellent introductions to a knowledge of this science, though they were not intended as such and very few students of meteorology would ever think of consulting them!

One of these is published by the United States Weather Bureau (but sold by the Superintendent of Documents, in Washington, at 25 cents a copy) as Circular M, "Instructions to Marine Meteorological Observers." Though a certain part of it is mainly of interest to sailors, it contains much information of more general interest about weather instruments, clouds, optical phenomena of the atmosphere, etc., some useful tables, a bibliography, and, last but not least, a fairly comprehensive glossary of meteorological terms (a large proportion of which are loosely or erroneously defined in general dictionaries).

The other work is a bigger one, issued by the Meteorological Office in Toronto (but printed in Ottawa), entitled "Instructions to Observers in the Meteorological Service of Canada." It combines a good elementary treatise on weather phenomena with much detailed information about weather instruments and their use.

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