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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 6, 1933

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COOPERATIVE WEATHER STUDY

There is hardly another branch of science in which the cooperation of many workers is so necessary as in meteorology, the science of weather. A few big astronomical observatories would suffice to insure the rapid advancement of astronomy, and if medical research were concentrated in one great, well-equipped institution, the science of medicine would doubtless make rapid strides, but the progress of meteorology depends in large measure upon the joint activities of numerous observing stations scattered over the globe. This fact was recognized when, about a century ago, John Ruskin wrote as follows:

"There is one point in which the science of meteorology differs from all others. A Galileo or a Newton, by the unassisted workings of his solitary mind, may discover the secrets of the heavens and form a new system of astronomy. A Davy in his lonely meditations on the crags of Cornwall or in his solitary laboratory might discover the most sublime mysteries of nature and trace out the most intricate combinations of her elements. But the meteorologist is impotent if alone; his observations are useless, for they are made upon a point, while the speculations to be derived from them must be on space."

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