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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AVIATORS' WEATHER VANES

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The long story of the wind vane, which begins, so far as recorded, with the bronze Triton that crowned the Tower of the Winds at Athens in the second century B. C., leads up, in our own day, to the interesting devices that tell the aviator in flight how the wind is blowing near the earth's surface. These wind indicators form part of the equipment of every airport.

The wind-cone, wind-sleeve, or, as many pilots call it, wind-sock, is a sleeve of light fabric open at both ends, shaped like a truncated cone when inflated by the wind blowing through it, and suspended by one end from a rigid support. When properly suspended the cone stands out nearly horizontally in the direction of the wind, if one is blowing. In calm weather the cone hangs down uninflated and thus shows the absence of wind. By night the cone is usually illuminated by electric lights above it.

The wind-tee is a large T-shaped wind vane, having the general appearance of an airplane. It is made conspicuous by day by alternate stripes of black and orange and is illuminated by night by rows of electric lamps, or in some cases by neon tubes. It is mounted on a vertical axis and is kept headed to the wind by a tail of large vertical surface.

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