

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
September 18, 1933

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed September 11, 1933

THE LOFTIEST WIND VANE

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The loftiest object in New York City, as compared with surrounding street levels, is the weather vane installed at the top of the Empire State Building, 1,265 feet above the pavement. In the same comparative sense it is the highest-placed weather vane in the world, and it is likewise one of the least conspicuous. In its insignificant dimensions and severely plain pattern it offers a marked contrast to the wind index once most familiar to New Yorkers, the Diana of old Madison Square Garden, now relegated to a Philadelphia museum.

Unlike Diana, whose efforts to aim her arrow straight at the wind's eye were none too successful (in her latter years she was clamped in a fixed position, thus ceasing to be a wind vane), the pointer at the summit of Empire State is not an architectural embellishment. It was designed by a well-known Baltimore firm of scientific instrument-makers for no other purpose than to tell which way the wind blows, and it performs that function as accurately as does the vane of the United States Weather Bureau farther downtown. Just below it is an anemometer, which measures the speed of the wind, and the indications of both instruments are transmitted electrically to indoor dials on four different floors of the world's tallest skyscraper.

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Washington, D.C.