

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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COLDEST AFTERNOONS -- WARMEST NIGHTS

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Regular observations of several weather elements taken at a certain place once a day or oftener for a long period of years yield a body of records that can be summed, averaged and otherwise analyzed in an almost endless variety of ways. It would be conceivably possible to fill a good-sized library with climatic statistics deduced from the weather records of a single station. Of course this has never been done, but there are many cases in which such statistics for a single locality fill a bulky volume.

An unusual kind of climatic information for several places in Saxony is given in a current German journal of meteorology. From the records of weather stations covering mostly a period of 70 years, the writer has tabulated the average lowest temperature registered at 2 p.m. on any day of the year, and the lowest on record for the whole period; also the average highest minimum temperature registered during any night of the year, and the highest on record.

These figures show, for example, that at Dresden in an average year there is at least one day when the temperature at 2 p.m. (around the time when the thermometer usually reads highest), is only 16 Fahrenheit, and that once during the 70 years it was 5 below zero at that hour. Again, in the average year, there is one night at the same place when the temperature does not go below 67, and there is one case on record when its lowest point during the night was 72.

Corresponding records are given for Leipzig, Chemnitz and a number of other places.

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