

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 7, 1934

WEATHER CYCLES

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In recent decades there has been a great deal of discussion among meteorologists concerning the supposed existence of weather cycles, deduced from the records of past weather and assumed to be permanent in operation. The discovery of definite and invariable weather cycles would solve the problem of predicting the weather not only of future weeks and months but of future years, and a vast amount of energy has been devoted to seeking them. Various ingenious mathematical processes have been applied in this quest, the remarkable result of which has been to disclose evidence of a great number of cycles of different lengths, superimposed upon one another, through which weather appears to have run in the past, either locally or throughout the world.

Weather cycles have been widely employed in long-range forecasting, but faith in their value for that purpose now seems to be on the wane. Some of them are probably mathematical figments, others are probably real, but the latter are, in the opinion of many meteorologists, too indefinite and inconstant to be relied upon in forecasting.

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