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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ABNORMAL WEATHER

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In any given locality, perfectly normal weather is a great rarity. There are nearly always at least slight differences between current values of one or more of the principal weather elements and their "normal" values; or, in other words, their average values for the time of year in question as deduced from records extending over many years. Over a whole country or any other large area the weather is never normal everywhere at any one time, and there are usually some rather pronounced abnormalities.

Averages, or so-called normals, of the principal elements have been computed for thousands of weather stations throughout the world, so that it is generally possible to state numerically the degree of abnormality of these elements prevailing at any time and place by means of plus and minus figures, known as "departures from the normal." When charted, such figures enable one to see at a glance to what extent the weather has been normal from place to place during the period of time, such as a recent week or month, to which the chart refers.

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