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Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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NORTHERN HEMISPHERE WEATHER

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Several series of so-called "daily weather maps of the Northern Hemisphere" have been published for a number of years past, but none of them present anything like a comprehensive picture of the weather over the whole of the hemisphere. The weather of vast areas, not only of the ocean but also of dry land, remains uncharted in these documents.

Because of the exceptional activity and wide distribution of weather stations during the 13 months August, 1932, to August, 1933, inclusive, known as the "International Polar Year," plans have been on foot for some time to collect records of weather from as great an extent of the Northern Hemisphere as possible and to embody them in a weather map for each day of that period. The charts are to be published at the Deutsche Seewarte, in Hamburg.

As a means of developing the best methods of preparing these maps, a series has been published by the Seewarte for the month of March, 1931. Records of observations at Greenwich noon, or, in general, at an hour not far therefrom, are shown on each chart for about 1,200 places, of which 870 are on land and 330 are the varying locations of ships. There are still many large gaps, but these will probably be filled to a considerable extent in the Polar Year series. The maps are on a scale of 1:30,000,000.

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