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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FUJI'S WEATHER STATION

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

In "The Playground of the Far East," by the Reverend Walter Weston, there is a photograph of the up-to-date meteorological station installed on the summit of Fuji-San, Japan's most celebrated mountain. Side by side with it is a photograph in which a pilgrim is seen worshipping the rising sun from the same summit. This pair of pictures, says the author, is typical of the contrasts between the old and the new that one meets on Fuji. Near the door of the most sacred shrine on the mountain is the business-like modern post office, from which travelers dispatch picture post cards to the four corners of the earth.

Mr. Weston and his wife climbed the mountain several times and always ran into storms. According to superstitious natives this was because, on each occasion, Mrs. Weston carried away fragments of volcanic rock from the summit. However, they enjoyed one evening the meteorological spectacle for which this mountain -- in common with a number of other lofty isolated peaks in various parts of the world -- is renowned; viz, the sharply defined shadow it casts at sunset on clouds to the eastward. Fuji's shadow is known as "Kage-Fuji."

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