

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Nov. 7, 1934

WETTEST AND DRIEST

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So far as trustworthy statistics go, the village of Cherrapunji, in the Khasi Hills of Assam, still holds, as it has done for many years, the distinction of being the rainiest known spot on the globe. The latest official figure for its average yearly wetness is 428 inches, but the official rain-gauge is said not to be in the wettest part of the town and other gauges give higher values; one as high as 450 inches a year. The place occupies a small level tract 4,455 feet above sea level, at the head of a steep-walled valley exposed to moist winds from the Bay of Bengal. The official average rainfall above quoted is about ten times the average for New York City, and it is more than 21,000 times the average for the world's driest known spot!

The place that holds the blue ribbon for dryness is Arica, Chile, where the average annual rainfall, from a 17-year record, is only 0.02 inch. During the seventeen years there were only three measurable showers.

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