

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE RAINY HEBRIDES

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The whole of Scotland is a rainy country. The heaviest rainfall occurs in the Highlands, but the hills of the Hebrides catch a great deal of water from the winds of the Atlantic, and the rain, though lighter than on the mainland, is almost as persistent.

"Then it rains in the Hebrides," says a writer in the London Daily Herald, "it rains with a kind of joy. Rain here is the perfect antithesis of bright sunlight. I thought I had seen rain at its best in the Highlands, in Ireland, and on the coast of Wales, but that sort of thing is just playing at wetness. Hebridean rain is the real thing. It turns the islands into an aquarium.

"For a time you try to keep dry. Then the rain begins to trickle down your neck through the mackintosh which the shop in London swore would keep out anything.

"Then it leaks through your shoes, it finds its way into your pockets and, if you are wearing the ridiculous and hideous garments known as 'plus fours,' each knee becomes a horrible bag of water. At this point you abandon yourself to the inevitable."

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