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REVIEWS

British Rainfall 1953: The Ninety-third Annual Volume of the British Rainfall Organization. H. M. Stationery Office, London 1955. 219 pp., 19 maps. Price £1. 5 s. net.

It is always a pleasure to receive this annual "Report on the distribution of rain in space and time over Great Britain and Northern Ireland." That for 1953 is based on the precipitation as recorded by about 5000 observers. There are 3 parts: I, 90 pp. of discussion, with special tables; II, 124 pages of the general tables; and III, 4 pages of heaviest falls on record.

The Hugh Robert Mill Medal and Prize in 1954 went to C. K. M. Douglas, O.B.E., well known for his work on forecasting and his papers on thunderstorm and orographical rains. A special investigation has been planned for the Cardington (Bedfordshire) area using a network of 16-20 recording rain-gauges over an area of only 4 sq. mi., all fitted with synchronized strip-chart recorders with a very open time-scale.

Maps show: the per cent (%) relation of rainfall in 1953 to the average of 1881-1915. Some progress has been made toward determining the averages for 1916-1950. The range was from less than 70%, in SW and NE England to over 120% in W. Scotland. The map of wet days (with .04 in. or more) shows a range of from less than 75 on the coast near south of the Thames River, to over 225 on the western and northern highlands of W. Scotland. Loch Shin, Sutherland, N. Scotland (356 ft above sea level), had 225 days with .04 in. or more and 274 days with .01 or more. The duration of rainfall at a rate of at least .004 in./hr. was as great as 1610 hrs. (18% of the time in the year) at Loch Sloy,

Dunbarton (41 ft above sea level). A table for 1860-1953 shows that in England 1.30 in. has fallen in 10 min., 2.12 in 20, 2.50 in 30, 3.63 in 1 hr. and 4.55 in 2 hrs. In Wales 4.80 in. fell in 2 hrs.—C. F. Brooks.

SPECIAL METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS

Assmann Psychrometer

Campbell-Stokes Sunshine Recorder

Duvdevani Dew Gauge

Biram's Anemometer

Fineman Nephoscope

Dines Rainfall Recorder

*Manufactured by C. F. Casella & Co., Ltd.
of London, England, and imported
by Science Associates*

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