

"*Whereas*: The seasonal weather of California, and probably of much of the Pacific Ocean, is closely dependent on weather conditions over the American and Eurasian continents, and these weather conditions seem to be intimately related to the surface temperatures of the continents . . . etc."

I have a great respect for the work of the Scripps Institution and have no desire to discourage researches concerning the oceans or the obtaining of much desired observations of oceanic conditions. My only desire is to present this alternative hypothesis and ask that it be given consideration until crucial facts are discovered which will settle which point of view is correct.

Some persons may prefer to call the point of view presented here an additional hypothesis rather than an alternative hypothesis. Names do not matter, the important point is to determine whether the primary impulse in our seasonal weather comes from the ocean or from the land. To my mind theoretical considerations (deductions from accepted physical theories) as well as such facts as we now possess, indicate that the primary impulse in seasonal changes come from the land and is increased in intensity by increased solar radiation as measured by the Smithsonian Institution. The ocean acts as a passive agent in bringing about the contrast of temperature which determines the air movement and the redistribution of pressure and attendant phenomena. No doubt there are numerous reactions between land and water in producing the final results and the earth's rotation acting on the moving air is an important factor in determining the final distribution of pressure.—*H. Helm Clayton.*

WEATHER TO BE OBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International cooperation in the study of world weather is to be undertaken by a group of thirty nations, including two former enemy countries, Germany and Austria, according to a communication from the International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation at Geneva, published in *Science*. The new body will endeavor to make the weather records of all countries more easily accessible to scholars. A special field of its labors will concern the weather reports from ships at sea, since very little connected data is at present available on the meteorology of the ocean, which nevertheless has a great influence on the weather of the land.—*Science Service.*

INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGY

Probably no other branch of science is so well organized from an international standpoint as meteorology. The meteorologists had their "league of nations" long before one was established by the politicians. The international organization originated at a conference held at Leipzig in 1872, which was the preliminary of a formal congress held the following year at Vienna. The members of the congress organized a "permanent committee," and this has been perpetuated to the present time.

What is now known officially as the International Meteorological Organization consists of (1) a directing body, the International Meteorological Committee, all of whose members are heads of national meteorological services, and (2) a number of international "commissions," which supervise and coordinate the work of meteorologists in various special fields. For example, there is a commission on agricultural meteorology, and there are others on clouds, upper-air observations, marine meteorology, etc.

The International Committee meets every three years. At less frequent intervals are held "conferences," attended by the directors of meteorological services and independent observatories throughout the world.—*C. Fitzhugh Talman, in "Why the Weather?" Science Service Feature.*

WORLD WEATHER RECORDS

With the aid of funds supplied by John A. Roebling, the Smithsonian Institution has compiled and published a monumental collection of weather records from 387 stations widely scattered over the world. In a volume of about 1,200 pages this work presents mean monthly values of temperature, rainfall and barometric pressure for the entire period of trustworthy observations at the places selected. Several of the records cover more than a century, the oldest of all being the temperature record for Charleston, South Carolina, which was begun by Dr. John Lining in 1738.

The plan of this undertaking was formulated at the International Meteorological Conference held at Utrecht in 1923. Dr. Felix Exner, of Vienna, was made responsible for the collection of data from European stations; Sir Gilbert Walker, of London, for the stations of Asia; H. H. Clayton, of Canton, Massachusetts, for the stations of North America; Robert C. Mossman, of the Argentine Meteorological Office, for those of South America; and Dr. G. C. Simpson, director of the British Meteorological Office, for the stations of Africa, Australia and the oceans.

The task of editing the work was assigned to Mr. Clayton, and occupied him and a staff of assistants for nearly three years.—*C. Fitzhugh Talman, in "Why the Weather?" Science Service Feature.*

An appreciative two-column review of this book was published in the *New York Times*, Sept. 13, 1927.

The "Reseau Mondial, 1920," comprising monthly and annual summaries of pressure, temperature, and precipitation at land stations the world over, has just been published by the British Meteorological Office.

Alfred J. Henry's discussion of the Bruckner Cycle of Climatic Oscillations in the United States has recently been published in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol XVII, No. 2, June, 1927.