

**NEW BOOK NEEDED.**

Government climatological services are concerned primarily with weather data for their own respective countries. All modern governments have climatological services, and many of them publish voluminous books of data. Most of these services have data covering a sufficient number of years to establish climatological normals. The time is now ripe for some independent scientific organization like the Carnegie Institution of Washington to prepare and publish a single volume giving climatological data for the whole world. The need for such a book is impressed upon every one who has attempted to find reliable climatic data for some foreign country. Unless one has access to a large library he will be unable to find much information. Even with the aid of a large library one will find data expressed in such a multiplicity of units and in such a scattered and desultory form that he may be compelled to give up in despair. Bartholomew's "Physical Atlas of Meteorology" is a superb graphic presentation of world data. But what is now needed is a similar publication giving numerical values in uniform units. Data most needed include those of temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, cloudiness, wind velocity and direction. A compact book giving such data for the whole world would be of inestimable value. It would render unnecessary the accumulation of a large number of climatological publications of foreign countries. It would aid in the development of foreign trade, it would contribute to the safety and convenience of travelers, it would be useful to the army and navy in time of war, and it would contribute to the advancement of science in general. Such a book would be a kind of Baedeker of the world's climates. The British Government has long maintained excellent meteorological stations at numerous colonial outposts. Hann's publications and the "Meteorologische Zeitschrift" contains valuable statistical data for all parts of the world. Trustworthy data are available in many scattered works, but until some independent scientific organization collects and publishes the data in compact and homogeneous form such data will not render maximum possible service to mankind.—*A. H. Palmer.*

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The needs expressed in the above note, for an all-inclusive climatology of the world, are indeed very great. However, the data frequently asked for extend to so many places, and cover so wide a range in kind, that they could not possibly be crowded into a single volume. A score, at least, of large volumes are needed—not alone for the important uses Mr. Palmer mentions, but also for any comprehensive study of the inter-relations between the weather and climates of different places.

No individual could assemble in a condensed and usable form all the reliable meteorological data of the myriad million reports already buried in the catacombs of our chief meteorological offices. But this invaluable service can easily be rendered by an agreed-upon team work, each country assembling a digest of its own data according to a previously determined plan. The final result would be a workable mine of facts from which many things that would be most useful certainly could be obtained, of which various handbooks of the kind Mr. Palmer calls for would be but one class.—*W. J. Humphreys.*