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THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.

As the result of observations made on a large number of Antarctic expeditions we have now a fairly complete idea of the general meteorological conditions holding around the coast of the Antarctic Continent. Further spasmodic observations will add little to that general knowledge; what is now required is a long series of observations made at one or two permanent stations.

The chief problem of applied meteorology is the provision of long-range or seasonal forecasts. Droughts and wet seasons are departures from a general climatological mean and it is the general opinion of meteorologists that such variations from the average are not just accidental variations confinded to single localities; but that they are local manifestations of some change in the general circulation of the atmosphere. If they are to be foreseen we must have a much more detailed knowledge of the air and its movement in all parts of the world. Each year we are obtaining more and more information from the land and to some extent from the sea; but there are still large areas from which no reliable data are available and the chief of these areas is the Antarctic. The method of approach to long-range forecasting is to examine the records of the past and compare the conditions year by year at places in all parts of the world. This is obviously only possible when the observations in any one place extend over a sufficiently long period for the average conditions to be ascertained from which the seasonal variations can be determined. Whether or not the Antarctic holds the

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