

METEOROLOGY

World's Weather Records

Where best and worst weather are found charted by two meteorologists. Highest temperature recorded under standard conditions is 136° Fahrenheit in North Africa in 1922.

► THE WEATHER RECORDS for the world, the highest and lowest temperatures and the greatest and least rainfall and snow cover, have been charted by two meteorologists.

A temperature of 136 degrees Fahrenheit observed at Azizia, Tripolitania, in northern Africa, on Sept. 13, 1922, is generally accepted as the world's highest temperature recorded under standard conditions. Higher temperatures reported cannot be accepted as official because details on the accuracy and exposure of the thermometer are usually lacking, L. H. Seamon and G. S. Bartlett of the U. S. Weather Bureau state.

The world's lowest temperature, 90 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, was recorded in Siberia at Oimekon on Feb. 1, 1933, and at Verkhojansk on Feb. 5 and 7, 1892. Unofficial readings lower than this have been reported, the scientists note, but more complete information concerning the details is needed before any of them can be accepted.

In the Western Hemisphere, the lowest official temperature recorded was 87 degrees below zero Fahrenheit in Greenland at an altitude of 9,820 feet on Dec. 6, 1949. The Greenland icecap is believed to be the coldest place in the Northern Hemisphere, with lowest temperatures near 100 below.

In Antarctica, the lowest temperature thus far recorded, although lower ones may be read during Operation Deepfreeze II, was 83 degrees below zero on July 21 and 22, 1934, by the R. E. Byrd Expedition at Bolling Base.

The highest average annual temperature in the world is probably the 88 degrees Fahrenheit at Lugh, Italian Somaliland, Africa. The lowest average has been estimated at 22 degrees below on the South Polar Icecap, Mr. Seamon and Mr. Bartlett report in *Weatherwise* (Dec., 1956), journal of the American Meteorological Society.

The greatest average annual rainfall recorded in the world is 471.68 inches at Mt. Waialeale, Kauai, Hawaii. The most famous spot in the world for heavy rainfall, however, is Cherrapunji, India, which held the record for many years and still holds four other records. For a period of 74 years, rainfall there averaged 450 inches annually.

In the United States, the greatest average annual rainfall record is held by 150.73 inches at Wynoochee, Wash.

Jefferson, Iowa, holds the world's record for greatest rainfall for one minute, 0.69 inch on July 10, 1955. An estimated fall of 1.23 inches at Unionville, Md., on July 4, 1956, is being investigated for reliability.

The United States also holds the world's record for greatest rainfall in one hour or less, 12 inches at Holt, Mo., in 42 minutes on June 22, 1947.

The world's least average annual rainfall is 0.02 inch at Arica in the northern desert of Chile, a 43-year record. Mr. Seamon and Mr. Bartlett point out that the number of years is an important factor, since rain occasionally does not fall at many desert stations for several consecutive years.

For 767 days, from Oct. 3, 1912, to Nov. 8, 1914, no measurable rain fell in Bagdad, Calif., setting the U.S. record for the longest dry period.

Greatest average annual snowfall is 575.1 inches at Paradise Ranger Station, Rainier Park, Wash., which also holds the record for the greatest amount in one season, 1,000.3 inches in 1955-56, for the U. S.

For a single calendar month, however, Tamarack, Calif., holds the record with 390 inches in January, 1911. The greatest snowfall in 24 hours was 76 inches at Silver Lake, Colo., on April 14-15, 1921, a value

prorated from a measured fall of 87 inches in 27.5 hours.

This storm also produced the highest known rates of snowfall in the U. S. for durations up to three days. Amounts measured were 95 inches for 48 hours on April 13-15, and 98 inches for 72 hours on April 12-15.

Science News Letter, January 12, 1957

EDUCATION

Human Bean Brane Divilop Somthing

► IF YOU think you can spell better than most college science students, get your pencil ready and translate these words: blud, nerse, ginny pig, anamal, brane, boddy, human bean, colur, divilop, docter, curcle, something, skeeter, punkin, sholder, totle, Thursday, worf, wrritting.

Dr. Kenneth B. M. Crooks, Fort Valley State College professor of zoology, demonstrated to the National Association of Biology Teachers meeting in New York with this list that college students cannot spell. They cannot read, write or comprehend as well as they should, either, he said.

The reasons: Not enough drill, "sloganitis" that engraves wrong spellings on young minds, teachers that feel teaching spelling is beneath their dignities, incorrect public signs, excessive use of audio-visual aids, cheating and loss of interest in letter writing.

Science News Letter, January 12, 1957



AURORA RECORDER—Equipped with similar auroral patrol spectrographs built by the Perkin-Elmer Corporation specifically for use during the International Geophysical Year, scientists are readying a pole-to-pole attack on the aurora. They will use 23 of these instruments to obtain a horizon-to-horizon photographic record of the spectra of auroras occurring along a meridional line, and also to photograph spectra of the airglow, a less publicized but equally intriguing atmospheric phenomenon.