

OCEANOGRAPHY

Whole Sky Pictured Using Special Camera

See Front Cover

➤ A SPECIAL CAMERA that photographs the entire sky, the horizon and the sea or land surface to 30 degrees below the horizon reflected in a spherical mirror has been developed by Dr. William S. von Arx of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass.

A still view taken with the camera is shown in the photograph on the cover of this week's Science News Letter. Besides the entire sky, the Light House on Nobska Point, Woods Hole, Mass., and the waters of Vineyard Sound and Woods Hole harbor on both sides of the point are visible.

The reflecting field compressor is a parabolic mirror 16 inches in diameter, mounted with vertex upward. The camera is a modified K-100, 16 mm time-lapse camera, triggered automatically at sunrise to expose one frame each minute until sunset, when it switches off automatically.

The photographic weather station, installed on the bridge of the Institution's R. V. Crawford, uses about 100 feet of film per week. Also photographed simultaneously with the state of the sky and the sea are instruments recording the temperature and humidity of the air, barometric pressure, time and the ship's heading. From these records, scientists can determine the cloudiness of the sky, the state of the sea, then correlate this information with other scientific data.

Recent research work with the instrument was performed under contract with the U. S. Weather Bureau and the Office of Naval Research for the National Hurricane Research Program.

Science News Letter, January 19, 1957

AGRICULTURE

Curtains for Brooders Halve Operating Costs

➤ PUTTING SIDE CURTAINS on chick brooders heated by infrared light cuts operating costs in half, scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and at Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station have found.

The saving is about two cents a chick, John G. Taylor and Ernest A. Johnson, who conducted the experiments at Lafayette, Ind., reported.

No great differences in gains and feedefficiencies between chicks reared in brooders with and without curtains were found in tests during the normal 11-week brooding period. However, brooders without side curtains used almost 93% more electrical energy than those with curtains.

White vinyl plastic, clear vinyl plastic and aluminum sheeting, they found, were equally effective in reducing operating costs.

Science News Letter, January 19, 1957