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Meteorological Aspects of an Overseas Visit
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Mr. Swinbank gave an account of the main features of interest from his overseas visit last year. The main purpose was to attend the triennial conference of U.G.G.I. held in Rome in September. Here one of the two principal topics was the General Circulation and it appears that a fairly consistent picture is beginning to emerge. The other, that of Numerical Prediction, aroused great interest and it would seem clear that this method of forecasting the pressure distribution will gradually establish itself in the routine business of the major meteorological services throughout the world though much research and investigation remain to be done. Considerable success from predictions based on a simple barotropic model is claimed in Sweden and similar results, from more complicated models, have been achieved in the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany. Australia would do well to notice the progress of these techniques.

Other problems discussed at the Conference were concerned with cloud physics, radiation, ozone and storm surges.

During a visit to Prof. Rossby's Institute in Stockholm Mr. Swinbank saw, in addition to the numerical prediction studies mentioned above, some preliminary results of an investigation into meteorological chemistry. These studies throw light on such varied problems as the physics of rain formation and the salting of soil, both of which are of particular interest to Australia.

In England the National Institute of Oceanography is now well established, and particular emphasis is being placed on the physical aspects of the subject. A Commonwealth Conference on Oceanography held there in October did much to bring out problems of common interest, and to explore ways in which collaboration of ideas, equipment and personnel might be achieved.