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Book Notices

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Workbook for Weather Forecasting.  E. S. Pulk and E. A. Murphy. Prentice-Hall, New York.

First edition, 1950.  66 pp. plus a map series kit.  $3.75.

Instruction in meteorology has long been handicapped by lack of suitable laboratory manuals. With the publication of this workbook the authors fortunately have produced a worthwhile addition to the list of useful manuals.

The first three chapters deal with plotting exercises. Regular teletype transmissions of weather data are included for the preparation of surface, upper air, and adiabatic charts. Blank charts and maps as well as sample breakdowns of the coded data enable the student to decipher the codes himself. In the last three chapters, the student is introduced to the techniques of analysis commonly used by forecasters. Non-technical discussion of air mass and frontal analysis, and correct interpretation of constant pressure level and adiabatic charts make this book a valuable teaching aid. The appendix which includes only a short glossary, a few formulas and scales, and a list of meteorological texts could be expanded.

Pulk and Murphy's manual will help to simplify a rather difficult subject although a companion text is needed which will take some of the mathematical gobbledygook out and give the student some insight into the actual problems the practicing forecaster must face.

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