

THE WEATHER AND CLOUDS OF MANILA

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INTRODUCTION

In "Outlines of Philippine Frontology" (1) the present writer endeavored to make a consistent analysis of Philippine weather according to Norwegian air mass methods. Using this as a basis, an attempt is now made to classify the weather of Manila according to various frontal situations. This tentative scheme is given in Table I (page 27). It has purposely been made quite minute, since weather is so notoriously varied in character; in fact, apparently no classification can perfectly adumbrate its vagaries.

To test this classification, all the days both of the writer's "Cloud Year" (May 1934 to May 1935; cf. Monthly Weather Review (2)) and of the aërograms described in the "Upper Air of Manila" (3) were carefully studied and inserted into the multifarious subdivisions of Table I, with a synopsis of the weather experienced therein. From this, general conclusions could be drawn as to the character of the weather to be expected in each of the types of situations enumerated in the Table I. Although in many cases the number of reference days is quite small, still it may be said that on the whole similar weather was found for the majority of the days in each of the respective divisions. In other words, as we might expect, similar frontal situations gave similar weather. The body of the text is made up of this analysis of weather types. However, it must be emphasized that this arrangement can not be regarded as final, and must surely suffer some changes before reaching a definitive form.

After the above analysis had been completed, it was noticed that, although most days in each subdivision had similar weather, still the weather of each subdivision was not characteristic of itself alone,—it was often quite identical in its main features with that of some other subdivision. This led to a briefer and probably a more natural classification of weather types, based mainly upon the lower clouds. It is presented in Table 2 (page 28), which though detailed is very easy to visualize. In Table 3 (page 29) we give a correlation between the two classifications, i. e. that of Table I with that of Table 2. To aid the reader to form some idea of what weather types are to be expected for various months of the year, a few more tables are added at the end of the text. Table 4 gives the weather types at Manila for days of the Cloud Year according to frontal situations, Table 6 gives the same according to the classification of Table 2. Table 5 gives the weather types for the days of aërograms according to the frontal situations.

There is also included in this paper one hundred plates of Manila clouds, carefully selected from some five thousand photographs taken by the writer with a Contax camera during his Cloud Year. A detailed account of the technique used has already been published, both in the Monthly Weather Review (2) and in "Photographie und Forschung" (The Contax in the Service of Science) (6). Under each photograph appears a short explanation of the type of cloud, together with the date of taking and the weather type of said day. In the selection an endeavor was made to embrace not only examples of the