

WEATHER OR NOT?

The Air Ministry experimental and research Weather Station is testing a new forecasting system. The aim is to use to better advantage the information coming in from 250 weather stations scattered about Europe and on the Atlantic. It's the same information available to the present Met. men, but by feeding the reports into computing machines the new system hopes to obtain, electronically, a more detailed and accurate picture of what the weather's cooking up for us, tomorrow and perhaps a bit further ahead. Take, the machines into your confidence, so to speak, and all the cathode rays and allied marvels will do the work. The idea may revolutionise weather forecasting all over the world.

Inside twenty minutes the electronic brains provide information that would take one man three years to work out. Now it only remains for the experts to interpret the machine-made answers in the familiar terms of troughs of low pressure, cyclones, and deep depressions, that make up this unpleasant winter. If the new system succeeds, it will be a simple matter to draw the patterns we see on T.V. and in the papers.

Science (like our policemen) is wonderful. If the new forecasting is generally adopted we shall know, almost with certainty, that tomorrow it'll rain like a deluge...be that foggy you'll never get home...or else downright awful. All these heavy objects falling on it, the pavement will crack like the Preston By-pass.