MEASUREMENTS OF ULTRA-VIOLET SOLAR RADIA-TION IN VARIOUS LOCALITIES

By W. W. Coblentz, R. Stair, and J. M. Hogue

ABSTRACT

In the present paper a description is given of the calibration of a selective photochemical, ultra-violet dosage intensity meter against a balanced thermocouple and filter radiometer, used as a standard. Data are given of the ultra-violet intensities of solar radiation in various localities at various elevations at various stations in Europe and upon the ocean.

The measurements show a high ultra-violet reflection from clean fresh snow. The ultra-violet intensities over the ocean are not conspicuously higher than at a sea level, dust-free station on land at the same latitude and the same season of the year.

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I. INTRODUCTION

During the past summer one of the writers (W. W. C.) was delegated to visit various European heliotherapy stations. The occasion presented an excellent opportunity for measuring the ultra-violet solar intensity at various stations, thus obtaining some idea of the amount available under various atmospheric conditions. Unfortunately, and contrary to the usual experience, there was an excessive amount of cloudy weather in Switzerland which greatly interfered with the attempted survey.

Nevertheless, in spite of the fragmentary data collected, a study of the tabulated measurements discloses highly interesting information on the amount of ultra-viloet radiation transmitted through fog and clouds and reflected from ocean waves, clouds, snow, and the north sky. Incidently, it is relevant to comment on the excessive erythema experienced by travelers on the ocean during cloudy weather. This physiological reaction appears to be far greater than would be experienced under similar conditions on land when the sky is completely overcast. Evidently the "sunburn" is not caused solely by ultraviolet radiation, but is accelerated by the wind and the fine, almost imperceptible, ocean spray.

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II. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The primary instrument for measuring ultra-violet radiation is a balanced thermocouple and filter radiometer $(1)^1$ calibrated against a standard of radiation which equates the measurement in absolute value (microwatts per cm² = μ w/cm²).

The reliability of this device is indicated by the accuracy with which the ultra-vioelt radiation of a source (having a discontinuous spectrum of strong emission lines distributed fairly uniformly throughout the ultra-violet spectrum) can be evaluated (a) by summation of the intensities of the individual lines, each one measured separately in absolute value and (b) by means of the filter method which measures the ultra-violet component in the undispersed source.

In this comparison good agreement was found not only in the ultraviolet radiation emitted by lamps, as measured by both methods in our own laboratory, but also by comparing the summation of the spectral radiation intensities (in absolute value) as observed in other laboratories with measurements on the same lamps by the balanced thermocouple and filter method as used in our laboratory.

Fortified with this agreement in measurements on a discontinuous spectrum which does not involve subsidiary calculations to reduce the data to a normal spectrum, it is assumed that the filter method is equally reliable for making measurements of short wave length ultra-violet in sources emitting a continuous spectrum. The fact that there is good agreement in the correlation of the physiological (erythemal) and the radiometric determinations on the various sources (2) seems to indicate that this agreement can not be fortuitous.

In this connection, it is relevant to cite an earlier research (3) in which the process was reversed, and a close agreement was found between the observed and the calculated transmission of the filters, for wide bands of the ultra-violet spectrum.

As a secondary instrument, convenient for field use it was decided to use an ultra-violet dosimeter, made by the I. G. Farbenindustrie (4). This is a photochemical device, consisting of a solution of a leuco-cyanide of triphenylamine dye which is colorless in the dark and turns pink in color temporarily when exposed to short wave length ultra-violet radiation. The pink color is reduced to a neutral gray by insertion of green filters of different densities. As issued by the factory the various filters (called "fields" which are numbered 0 to 9) are calibrated arbitrarily (against a quartz mercury arc lamp, used as a standard) to indicate intensities and corresponding times of exposure to produce a minimum perceptible erythema.

Two instruments were used: No. 1 obtained in March, 1932, and calibrated as will be described on a subsequent page, and No. 2, which was shipped from the factory to Davos, Switzerland in July, 1932. The latter was found less sensitive (for the same intensity, filter 2 =filter 3 of No. 1) owing to the fact that in the later model a less sensitive solution having a smaller temperature coefficient is used.

¹Figures in parentheses here and throughout the text indicate references given in the bibliography at the end of this paper.

1. STANDARDIZATION OF DOSIMETER

The question of standardization of selective (photo-electric and photochemical) dosage intensity meters was discussed in previous communications (1) and (5) where an actual example of such a calibration is given.

For the present investigation, the ultra-violet dosimeter (No. 1) was calibrated against the standard balanced thermocouple and filter radiometer (1) by simultaneous measurements of the ultra-violet solar intensity on the clearest days in Washington in June before going to Europe, and again soon after the return in September. Good agreement was observed in the two calibrations indicating that the portable instrument had not changed appreciably in the mean time.

The procedure in obtaining a calibration of the dosimeter for measuring solar radiation is relatively simple. The measurements were begun in the forenoon when the ultra-violet solar intensity was relatively low, and continued through midday when the intensities were a maximum $(85\mu \text{w/cm}^2 \text{ in June}, 55\mu \text{w/cm}^2 \text{ in September for}$ ultra-violet radiation of wave lengths less than 313 m μ as observed with the balanced thermocouple and filter radiometer).

A uniform time of exposure was adopted—1 minute, 2 minutes, etc., and the "field number" was determined for neutralizing the pink color. This, of course, varies with the intensity. Manifestly for zero intensity there is no chemical reaction. Hence, for intensities less than 10 to 20 μ w/cm² (as observed with the balanced thermopile) requiring neutralizing fields No. 1 to No. 2, there is no need of making observations with the dosimeter. In order to avoid heating of the dosimeter the exposures were not continued longer than three minutes, except when the intensities were low.

In Figure 1 is shown a series of calibration curves of dosimeter No. 1 for different exposures of 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 minutes, obtained by comparison against the standard thermopile and filter radiometer.

In this illustration the abscissas represent the observed field numbers of the filters in the eyepiece of the dosimeter required to neutralize the pink color of the solution after an exposure (of say two minutes) to the intensities in microwatts per cm² as observed by the balanced thermopile and filter radiometer.

As used in practice, the dosimeter was exposed for, say, two minutes, and the filter necessary to neutralize the pink color was noted. The corresponding intensity was then read from Figure 1. After a little experience, it was found possible to estimate fractional numbers. For example, if, after a certain exposure, field No. 3 appeared slightly pink and No. 4 appeared deep green, the neutralizing field was estimated 3.2 (see Table 1); if, say, field No. 3 was appreciably pink it was estimated at 3.5; and if field No. 3 appeared decidedly pink and field No. 4 appeared only faintly green, the estimate was No. 3.8 (see Table 1).

In order to shield the end of the tube containing the solution from reflected skylight, it was covered while making measurements, although exposure of only the end of the glass tube for one to two minutes showed no appreciable reddening of the solution.

While making observations in bright sunlight, the eyes were shielded to keep them adapted to color discrimination at low intensities, such as encountered in looking into the eyepiece of the dosimeter. This method of observing was adopted after making some erratic field settings which seemed to be caused by a change in the color estimation while the eye adapted itself to lower intensities.

Since all the measurements (except in the ice fields of Jungfraujoch, temperature 1.5° C.) as well as the calibration against the standard instrument, were obtained at average summer temperatures, no attempt was made to apply a temperature coefficient, which is reported to be small in the newer model.

When this instrument had not been used for several days the first reading seemed to be appreciably lower than those made subsequently, just as though the end point in decolorizing was a slower process than estimated by the eye. Furthermore, field "No. 0"



always appeared greenish, rather than neutral after extended rest periods. Hence, just sufficient time for field "No. 0" to become neutral was allowed to elapse between successive measurements.

III. OBSERVATIONAL DATA

The tabulated measurements, though meager, contain useful information that can be only briefly summarized in the text.

The observations made in different localities are recorded in Table 1. The time of the day is eastern standard time (E. S. T.) for Washington and the Atlantic Ocean, and western Europe standard time for stations in Europe. The "angle" given in column 7 of Table 1 is the estimated solid angle (circular area) of the sky, as viewed by the radiometer, that was free from clouds.

Since the dosimeter intercepts radiation from practically the whole hemisphere, it is inclined to register uniform values for a longer period during the noon hour than the thermopile which subtends an angle of 45°.

The ocean measurements were made at a great distance from the shore, hence, should not be affected by smoke and dust. An impressive physiological observation was the severe "sunburn" experienced by ocean travelers when there was cloudiness and mist throughout the day.

TABLE 1.—Ultra-violet solar radiation intensity, U.-v. Q. in microwatts per cm² $(\mu w/cm^2)$ as observed in different localities (Switzerland, Denmark, etc.) by means of a photochemical dosage intensity meter (an I. G. Farbenindustrie dosimeter) calibrated against a balanced thermocouple and filter radiometer which is standardized to indicate the ultra-violet intensity of wave lengths less than and including 313 mµ

Date	Expo- sure	Neu- traliz- ing fil- ter_No.	Uv. Q. in μ w/cm ²	Location	Eleva- tion	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1932 June 3: 11.17 a. m 12.20 p. m 1.49 p. m June 8: 9.46 a. m 10.39 a. m 11.38 a. m 12.11 p. m 12.22 p. m	Min. 2 2 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 2	5 5.1 3 5 3.8 4.5 5 2.5 5	84 86 *48 83 67 71 79 84 *40 84	Washington (lati- tude, 38° 55' N.).	Feet 350	Sky very clear, blue. North sky, clear blue.* Sky cloudless. North sky, very clear.*
1.23 p. m 2.12 p. m 3.11 p. m 4.12 p. m June 29:	2 2 2 2	4.5 4 3 2	79 71 54 37			
10.25 a. m July 3:	5	2.3	30	Atlantic Ocean (lat- itude 41° 21' N.).	100	Faint sunlight through mist 400 miles from New York.
10.00 a. m 10.12 a. m 12.15 p. m 12.55 p. m	5 1 3	4.5 2.5 3.5 5.5	58 55 54 80	(Latitude 39 20 N.)		light; 650 miles from Plymouth. Sun through broken clouds. Direct sunlight. Fracto-cumulus clouds. Sun through fine cirrus.
1.15 p. m 1.39 p. m 2.00 p. m 2.19 p. m	$\begin{array}{c}1\\2\\2\\2\end{array}$	4.5 5 5 4.5	90 85 85 80			Sky clear; cumulus to west. Sky clear. Fine cirrus haze, otherwise clear over hemisphere. Sky clear; fine cirrus for last 20
2.48 p. m 3.15 p. m	1 3	3, 3	₩u 170 *17			seconds exposure. Observations terminated by thin fleeting clouds. Reflection from waves in line with sun.*
3.58 p. m	1	2	43			Observations stopped by fracto- cumulus near sun.

(The time is the beginning of the observation. The asterisk (*) indicates measurements of ultra-violet reflected from clouds, snow, water, etc.]

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					1	
Date	Expo- sure	Neu- traliz- ing fil- ter No.	Uv. Q. in μ W/cm ²	Location	Eleva- tion	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1932 July 4: 1.08 p. m	Min. 5	4. 5	58		Feet	Coast of England, broken clouds
1.40 p. m	2	4	71			Sun through thin clouds.
July 14: 1.15 p. m	2	4	71	Chamounix (lati-	3, 200	Sun through fine cirrus.
149 n m	2	3.8	70	tude 45° 55' N.).		Sun through rift in dense cloud
1.10 p. m.	-	0.0	10			banks.
9.35 a. m 10.06 a. m 10.18 a. m	2 2 2	2 3.5 4.0	37 63 71	Lausanne (Ouchy)_ Lake Geneva (Latitude 46° 30'	1,250 1,240	Thick cirrus haze. Sky clear, but hazy. Sky clear, cirrus coming from
5.38 p. m July 18:	2	0	0	N.). Ouchy		south. Sky overcast at 10.35 a.m. Sky clear.
9.10 a. m 10.14 a. m	2 1	2 3	37 65	Aigle Leysin Village (latitude 46° 20'	1, 368 4, 420	Sky clear; cirrus S.E. of sun. Exposure terminated by cumulus clouds.
12.36 p. m	1	2	43	11.).		Sun through fine clouds.
12.56 p. m	1.5	3.3	65			Sun through thin clouds; ob- servations terminated by thick cumulus.
1.47 p. m 2.19 p. m	$\frac{2}{2}$	4 5	70 84			Sun through thick cirrus, Sun through thick cirrus; clearer
2.59 p. m	2	2. 1	*40			Sky radiation reflected from clouds on mountain (east) op- posite the sun which shines through thin cirrus.*
July 19: 10.34 a. m	1	2	45	Brigue	2, 260	Sky clear, angle 30°, clouds to
1.23 p. m	2	4.3	75	Gletch	5, 780	Sky clear; smoke from engine
1.44 p. m	1	3	65	Furka Pass	7,990	Sky clear blue; thin cirrus in-
2.24 p. m July 20:	1	3	65	Andermatt	4, 740	Sky perfectly clear blue; best set.
10.11 a. m	2	4	70	Peist	3, 000	Sky clear; thin cirrus for 15 sec-
11.12 a. m	2	5	85	Arosa	5, 795	Sky clear blue between rift in thick clouds
2.00 p. m	5	1	*8			Reflection from thick cloud on mountain S.E. of sun which is clouded.*
12.44 p. m	1	2.5	55	Davos Platz (lati-	5, 120	Sky clear, angle 45°, clouds to side.
12.50 p. m	3	5	75			Sky clear, angle 45°.
1.52 p. m	1	2.5	55			Sky hazy.
July 27:		2.0	00			Fine cirrus.
11.08 a. m	2	1	•18	Jungfrau-joch (lati- tude 46° 32' N.).	11, 350	Sunlight through fog; bright glare, Roof of Forschungin- stitut.*
11.49 a. m	5	2.5	*34			Sunlight reflected from glacier
1.29 p. m	5	2	*28			through thin fog.* Reflection from fresh snow from glacier below Berghaus. Sky overcast. Glare uncomforta-
2.15 p. m	5	3	•40			ble to the eye.* Reflection from snow across val- ley from roof of Forschungsin- atiut. Temperature 1420
2.28 p. m	5	2.5	•34			Sky radiation; sun obscured by mist. Light snow falling.

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TABLE 1.—Ultra-violet solar radiation intensity, U.-v. Q. in microwatts per cm² $(\mu w/cm^2)$ as observed in different localities (Switzerland, Denmark, etc.) by means of a photochemical dosage intensity meter (an I. G. Farbenindustrie dosimeter) calibrated against a balanced thermocouple and filter radiometer which is standard-ized to indicate the ultra-violet intensity of wave lengths less than and including \$13 m\mu—Continued

Date	Expo- sure	Neu- traliz- ing fil- ter No.	Uv. Q. in µw/cm²	Location	Eleva- tion	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1932 July 27—Con. 2.40 p. m	Min. 5	3. 5	*46		Feet	Reflection from fresh glacier snow. Sun obscured by mist
2.55 p. m 3.10 p. m	5 5	2.5 3.5	*34 *46			Sky radiation; light snow falling.* Reflection from glacier snow; sun obscured. Temperature, 1.3°C. Humidity, 74 per cent.*
July 28: 10.05 a. m 10.19 a. m 10.27 a. m	$\begin{array}{c}1\\1\\3\end{array}$	3 3 3. 5	65 65 *56	Jungfraujoch	11, 350 	Fine snow falling part of time. Blowing cloud wisps. Reflection from snow banks 3 to 4 feet distant.*
10.45 a. m 10.59 a. m	1 1	1 2. 5	*23 55			Reflection from snow, cloud wisps over sun.* High wind, cloud wisps for last 10 seconds.
11.12 a. m 11.25 a. m 11.42 a. m	1 1 1	1.5 3.2 3.5	*34 70 75			Reflection from snow in valley.* Sky cloudless most of time, no wind. Sky cloudless.
11.50 a. m 11.59 a. m	1	3.5 2.5	*75			tant 3 feet. Sky clear; bright sun.* Sky radiation to west; perhaps a
12.07 p. m	2	4.5	78			Sky perfectly clear. Tempera- ture, 2.8° C.
1.04 p. m 1.11 p. m 1.21 p. m	1 1 1	3.5 3 3.5	76 *65 76			Reflection from snow bank.* Temperature, 1.7° C. Humidity,
1.32 p. m 1.43 p. m 1.54 p. m	2 1 1	5 3.8 3.5	84 80 *76			Sky perfectly clear; light wind. Reflection from snow bank Sun's rays normal to surface.*
July 29: 10.32 a. m	1	2.5	54	Harder Kulm near Interlaken (lati- tude, 46° 41' N.).	4, 350	Sky perfectly clear.
10.40 a. m 10.52 a. m 11.08 a. m 11.26 a. m 11.39 a. m	2 3 1 1 1	4.5 6 4 3.5 3.8	78 85 85 75 82			
11.50 a. m 12.21 p. m	1	3	82 65	Interlaken(latitude, 46° 41' N.).	1,870	Funiculare station at foot of Kulm; street dust reduces in- tensity. In open field near Ost Bahnhof.
1.26 p. m 1.39 p. m 1.53 p. m 2.13 p. m 2.28 p. m	1 1 1 3	3 3 3.5 5	65 65 75 75			Sky perfectly clear to horizon.
2.46 p. m 3.07 p. m 3.46 p. m 4.08 p. m 4.23 p. m	3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	5 3.8 3.5 3	75 60 55 48			Sky clear. Small cloud north of
4.58 p. m 5.18 p. m	33	2.5 2.2	40 36			sun. Small cirrus north and west of sun.
5.42 p. m August 11: 1.24 p. m	5 2	1.5 3.5	20 63	Copenhagen (lati- tude 55° 30' N.)	150	Small cloud north of sun. Raadhusplads. Sky clear to horizon; sun has wide corona.
1.37 p. m	2	3.8	66			Christianberg ralace Canal.

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TABLE 1.—Ultra-violet solar radiation intensity, U.-v. Q. in microwatts per cm² $(\mu w/cm^2)$ as observed in different localities (Switzerland, Denmark, etc.) by means of a photochemical dosage intensity meter (an I. G. Farbenindustrie dosimeter) calibrated against a balanced thermocouple and filter radiometer which is standardized to indicate the ultra-violet intensity of wave lengths less than and including 313 mµ—Continued

Date	Expo- sure	Neu- traliz- ing fil- ter No.	Uv. Q. in μ w/cm ²	Location	Eleva- tion	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1932 Aug. 11—Con. 1.53 p. m	Min. 2	3. 5	63		Feet	Faint cirrus southwest of sun; in
2.20 p. m	2	3.2	58			Fine cirrus southwest of sun;
3.16 p. m	2	2.8	51			Fine cirrus on horizon; observa-
4.12 p. m	3	1.2	20			Sky clear. Street corner; Turist
August 14: 11.41 a. m. 12.01 p. m.	$2 \\ 2$	2.8 3.8	51 66	Copenhagen		Sky hazy. City square. Near railroad station.
8.01 a. m	5	.5	7	North sea (latitude	50	Thin cirrus. Enroute Esbjerg
8.16 a. m 9.40 a. m	$\frac{5}{2}$	$1.2 \\ 2.5$	16 45			Clear sky. Forward deck, no smoke; sky
9.55 a. m 10.26 a. m 11.21 a. m 11.42 a. m	3 3 3 2	2.5 3 4 3.8	45 48 62 67			Sky clear through angle 60°. Cirrus on horizon. Small cloud south of sun. Clouds on horizon.
12.05 p. m 12.54 p. m		4	70 70 70			Sky clear through angle 90°. Sky clear through angle 90°.
1.46 p. m	2	3.8	67			Cirrus clouds to north. Cirrus clouds around sun. Clear
2.01 p. m	2	3.5	63			Fine cirrus. Clear through angle
2.41 p. m	2	3	54	(Latitude 52° N.)		Approaching Harwich. Sky clear
3.06 p. m	2	3.5	63			Sky clear. Clouds on north hori-
3.27 p. m September 12:	2	3.2	57			Less hazy and smaller corona.
1.16 p. m	2	3	54	Atlantic Ocean (lat- itude 48° N.).	100	Thick cirrus.
2.05 p. m 2.31 p. m 2.49 p. m	2 2 2	3 3.5 2.8	54 63 51			Cirrus; high wind. Fairly clear. Clear sky.
8.49 a. m	2	2	37	Atlantic Ocean (latitude 46° 40' N.) (longitude 28° 30' W)		Sky clear between fleeting clouds.
8.57 a. m 9.09 a. m	22	2.5 3	45 54			Wide corona. Sky clear except on horizon; no
9.21 a. m	. 2	3.5	62			Sky clear except horizon south-
9.36 a. m 9.49 a. m	22	3.8 3.5	67 65			Same as preceding; small corona. Fine cirrus in west; covers sun
11.49 a. m	. 2	3. 3	58			Fire haze and cirrus; wisps of
September 14: 9.41 a. m	. 2	. 2	37	Atlantic Ocean (latitude 42° 50' N.) (longitude 50° 58' W)	100	Thin fracto cumulus.
10.21 a. m September 15:	2	2.5	45			Fleeting clouds.
1.09 p. m 1.30 p. m		3 2.8	55 51	(Latitude 41° 20' N.) (longitude 63° 50' W.).		Thick cirrus moved over the sun. Thin cirrus over the sun.

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TABLE 1.—Ultra-violet solar radiation intensity, U.-v. Q. in microwatts per cm² $(\mu w/cm^2)$ as observed in different locations (Switzerland, Denmark, etc.) by means of a photochemical dosage intensity meter (an I. G. Farbenindustric dosimeter) calibrated against a balanced thermocouple and filter radiometer which is standardized to indicate the ultra-violet intensity of wave lengths less than and including $313m\mu$ —Continued

Date	Expo- sure	Neu- traliz- ing fil- ter No.	Uv. Q. in µw/cm²	Location	Eleva- tion	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1932 September 29: 9.24 a. m 10.00 a. m 10.21 a. m September 30: 8.06 a. m 9.06 a. m 9.06 a. m 9.08 a. m 10.01 a. m 10.24 a. m 10.45 a. m 11.07 a. m 11.28 a. m 11.49 a. m 12.07 p. m	Min. 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	1.5 2 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.5 1.1 1.5 2.5 2.8 3 3.3 3.3 3.3	30 36 38 38 15 28 38 46 50 54 57 57	Washington (lati- tude 38° 55' N.).	Feet 350	Sky clear of dust after rain. Fracto-cumulus over sun at 10.35 a. m. Sky clear. Sky cloudless. Small corona. Observed with balance thermo- couple=47μw/cm ² . Observed with balance thermo- couple=50μw/cm ² . Fracto-cumulus southeast of sun. Fracto-cumulus to north and east of sun. Sky clear through angle 60°.

The observed high ultra-violet reflecting power of fresh clean snow is in agreement with physiological observations, and is to be expected from our knowledge of the high transparency of water for ultra-violet radiation. Some of these measurements were made on ultra-violet solar radiation reflected from freshly fallen snow on a glacier, situated several miles across a mountain valley from the observing station (the hotel and the Forschungs Institut on Jungfraujoch).

The observation on Jungfraujoch showing that the ultra-violet component in sunlight is not much greater than at lower altitudes is in agreement with previous measurements in Arizona, showing that while the spectral quality is changed the loss in ultra-violet intensity in the direct solar rays is compensated to some extent by scattering, in the lower altitudes.

The reflection from numerous "breakers" on a rough sea and the churned white surface near the boat, all viewed in line with the sun, seems low. However, the frequent reports of sunburn by reflection from water probably means the combined effect of direct and reflected sunlight, that is incident upon a skin that is sensitized by moisture.

The observed ultra-violet solar radiation intensities over the ocean do not appear to be conspicuously higher than at a sea level, dustfree station on land, at the same latitude and season of the year. This is to be expected in view of the fact that after traversing the extensive atmospheric envelope of the earth (21 miles in thickness if it were homogeneous) the lower layer over the ocean can not increase the intensity and the similar layer over the solid earth, when dust free,

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does not deplete the ultra-violet intensity to the extent that might be inferred from the observed, relatively greater, physiological (erythemal) reaction experienced on the ocean.

In conclusion, especial acknowledgment is due Dr. W. R. Hess (Zurich), President of the International Foundation of the Jungfraujoch Scientific Station; Dr. W. Mörikofer, Director of the Physical-Meteorological Observatory at Davos; and Dr. F. W. Paul Götz, Director of the Climatological Observatory at Arosa, for numerous courtesies extended in connection with this investigation.

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