

Til umhugsunar er eftirfarandi texti - nenni ekki að þýða hann orðrétt á íslensku að svo stöddu. Hann er fenginn úr ritinu: „Manual of Meteorology, volume I, Meteorology in History“ eftir Napier Shaw sem lengi var forstjóri Bresku veðurstofunnar. Cambridge University Press gaf út 1932.

Hér er fjallað um þá ákvörðun bresku veðurstofunnar að leggja ekki sérstaka áherslu á uppsetningu fullkominna vindhraðamæla á öllum veðurstöðvum - að mörgu leyti væri bara betra að meta vindinn inn í Beaufort-kvarðann. Textinn stendur enn fyrir sínu.

Af síðu 187 - í tíma erum við aðallega stödd á árábilinu 1850 til 1870

One of the curiosities of meteorological work upon wind is that differences of the kind here referred to are tolerated for years without anyone feeling it necessary to explore the subject to the point of actual conviction.

The secret of that really intolerable toleration is the basic difficulty of all anemographic records - the exposure. The reading of any anemograph is a function not only of the instrument but of the site, and of the shape and orientation of the structure upon which the instrument is mounted. Any flat vertical surface exposed to the wind produces a localised eddy analogous to what is treated elsewhere as a cliff-eddy, and a few degrees of difference in the orientation of the wind may have a considerable effect on the record. The conclusion arrived at in the Meteorological Office was that nothing short of a separate structure, a tower of open ironwork, on a very open space of level ground was really efficient and even in that case, as may be seen in Part IV, distant geographical features may have a paramount influence upon the record of wind. The standard mounting of a tube-anemometer is with the vane 40 feet above the ground. When a site well away from trees or buildings cannot be secured the vane should be at least 20 feet above them.

Hence it has come about that unless the local opportunity for exposure was exceptionally good it was not thought desirable to insist upon, or even to advise, the erection of an elaborate instrument for recording the wind. Wind did not really lend itself to recording, except in a specially local sense, local as to building as well as site and general locality. It was thought better to get the general impression of the wind which is expressed by the adaptation of the Beaufort scale to observations on land than to obtain a more precise numerical value which had no meteorological significance of the same order of accuracy. No structure of meteorological reasoning can be raised without a tolerance of at least 20 per cent. in the assigned values of surface winds.