



Referring to p. 222 of the same treatise the following figures are given for the mean rainfall of Cherrapunji.

order to reach the rain-gauges, but it seems that the mean daily rainfall is over 1 inch and the annual mean over 400 inches. This is

Cherrapunji	Altitude in feet	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	4,309	0.7	2.1	11.7	30.8	46.2	96.8	98.2	76.5	46.1	16.7	1.9	0.2	427.9

The same author in his book on *Climate*<sup>3</sup> (p. 141), has stated: "The very high mean of 412 inches is recorded near sea-level on the south-west side of Kamerun Peak, where a south-west wind blows on-shore for the greater part of the year, and there is certainly much more on the higher slopes; the heaviest rains are from June to October, the months when the monsoonal indraft is strongest. Kamerun is situated about 5° N. lat. and this too tends to give it its wettest season in the northern summer. There are stations outside the equatorial belt which have a large rainfall." On pp. 39-40 of *Climatology*,<sup>4</sup> by Austen Miller, it is recorded: "the heaviest rainfalls in the world are recorded under such conditions, Kauai<sup>1</sup> in the Hawaiian Island, has an average rainfall of 476 inches and Cherrapunji, in Assam, has 450 inches.

In the same connection, W. G. Kendrew in his book on *Climate*, has recorded on p. 145<sup>2</sup>: "the north-east trades of the Pacific Ocean meet such a barrier in the Sandwich Islands,

among the highest figures recorded on the earth."

Finding such great discrepancies in standard works on climatology, it was deemed advisable to refer the matter to the India Meteorological Department since relevant references were not available at Benares. The Dy. Director-General of Observatories, Poona, informed me that there are at present three rain-gauges at Cherrapunji with annual total rainfall as tabulated below:—

CHERRAPUNJI RAINFALL  
(Average Annual Total)

I. Provincial rain-gauge, located in the Police Station (started in 1871):

- (1) From Blanford's. This average is based on data before 1899—474".
- (2) From 'Rainfall of India', *Memoirs*, Vol. No. XIV. Average based on data from 1872 to 1900. (This publication appeared in 1902)—457".8.
- (3) 1920 normal. Based on data upto 1920 (49 years)—427".8.
- (4) 1940 normal (70 years)—425".5.

Monthly and Annual Rainfall (in Inches)

Station	Lat °N	Long.	Height	Length of record yrs.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
1. Cherrapunji (Police Station) Provincial rain-gauge	25° 16'	91° 44' E	4,309	70	0.73	1.91	9.92	28.80	49.82	100.35	95.85	73.11	45.95	16.74	2.06	0.22	425.46
2. Cherrapunji (Welsh Mission House)	25° 16'	91° 44' E	4,309 Approx	38	0.86	2.28	7.58	28.61	52.67	114.71	106.04	76.61	44.39	21.66	3.59	0.59	459.59
3. Cherrapunji (Observatory)	25° 16'	91° 44' E	4,309	35	0.75	2.11	7.27	26.23	50.44	106.05	96.24	70.08	43.35	19.42	2.70	0.49	425.23
4. Waialeale (Kauai Is.)	22° 4'	159° 30' W	5,075	20	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	460 20
5. Debundja (Nigeria)	4° 5'	8° 59' E	16	14	7.91	11.26	16.06	18.11	25.43	58.35	63.03	54.21	61.42	46.34	24.06	13.39	399.57

*Note.*—Not available. Data of 4 and 5 taken from *Climate and Mean*, published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

while the volcanic mountains rise steeply from the Ocean to 13,000 feet; on Mount Waialeale (5,080 feet) in the Island of Kauai a high cliff facing north-east forces the Trade winds to rise almost vertically, and the rainfall is both heavy and continuous. The records are slightly uncertain owing to the difficulties involved in reaching this remote and elevated spot in

II. Rain-gauge at Cherrapunji Welsh Mission House (opened in 1903):

- Average 1903-1920 (18 years)—441".7.  
1940 normal (38 years)—459".6.

III. Rain-gauge at Cherrapunji Observatory (opened in 1906):

- 1940 normal (35 years)—425".2.