

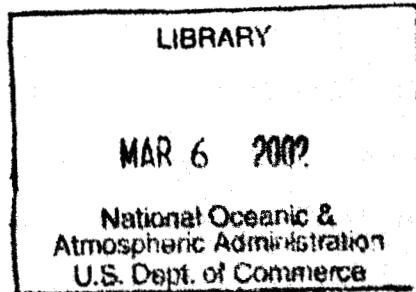
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1923 May -
1934 Feb.

These notes and 18 others of later number (251, 254, 255-257,
259, 261, 266, 267, 269, 272, 273, 275, 276, 284-286, and 341)
were published in my book "Why the Weather?" 1924.

Charles F. Brooks.

[1923]



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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society
says:

DUST IS ALL IMPORTANT

Dust is an unpleasant and unwholesome substance to have about the home or street, but in the atmosphere it is indispensable. Without it there would be vastly less rain and snow. Moisture would not condense readily, because it cannot condense without something to condense upon. The nucleus of practically every droplet of water which enters into the formation of a raindrop is a particle of dust. The snowflake, also, is usually dependent upon a dust nucleus. Experimentally it has been found that moisture will condense in dust-free air, but only at extremes of super-cooling rarely, if ever, occurring in nature.

Therefore, it is fortunate that the atmosphere, no matter how clear it may be, usually contains vast numbers of dust particles. They help to make the sky blue, though the air molecules are mainly responsible for this color, and they play an exceedingly important part in the creation of wonderful sunset colors, particularly the reds and yellows, for their presence in the atmosphere, with or without adhering molecules of water, tends to scatter or absorb, and destroy to human sight, all but these colors of long wave length.

(Tomorrow: There is Water in the Air.)

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