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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

HOW HIGH IS THE ATMOSPHERE?

The question is sometimes asked, how high is the atmosphere. It has been computed that as far as 20,000 or 25,000 miles from the earth gases could turn with it without being thrown out into space by centrifugal force. Observations on the twilight arch, which marks the shadow of the earth cast by the sun on the sky after it has passed below the horizon, or before it has risen, indicate that at a height of 40 miles above the sea the air has a density sufficient to scatter light. Measures of meteor trails indicate the existence of air at a height of 200 miles, and Auroral streamers visible to heights exceeding 300 miles show there is some atmosphere even at such great altitudes. Actual measurements, however, have not extended much higher than 20 miles, the height to which sounding balloons have gone.

Scientists divide the air into two regions. At an altitude varying from 6 to 10 miles, according to high or low latitude, is found the coldest air, which seems to mark the top of a lower shell of air. Clouds are confined to this shell, which is known as the troposphere. The cloudless upper shell, which extends no man knows how high, is called the stratosphere.

(Tomorrow: Hurricane Rainfalls.)

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