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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
tells of:

SIDEWALKS DRY IN DRIZZLE

A dry sidewalk while the air is full of drizzling rain is not an uncommon sight. The reason is that the surface is warm from previous heating or from sunlight which penetrates the clouds, even while they are dense enough to give forth a drizzle. In the case of cement the heating may be also by conduction from below. In either case, or in the combination of the two causes, the surface is sufficiently warm to evaporate the moisture as fast as it falls and leave the sidewalk dry.

Clouds, of course, do not shut off all sunlight. One can be badly sunburned on a cloudy day, though not when clouds are dense enough to produce a drizzle. The occurrence of a drizzle is often an indicator of clear skies above, which, during the night, have allowed a lower moist layer of air to cool below its dew-point, and so to form the thin clouds from which the drizzle falls.

(Tomorrow: "When the Peacock Loudly Bawls".)

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