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A Science Service Feature

Dec. 22

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

THE SHORTEST DAY

This afternoon, December 22, the end of winter will be in sight. It is the time of the turning of the sun. From now on each day will be longer. Spring seems to be near. We can face the knowledge that as "days grow longer, cold grows stronger", with a greater degree of equanimity because each day, no matter how low the temperature, there will be the cheering influence of longer hours of sunlight.

After 3:54 o'clock this afternoon, Eastern Standard Time, the progress of the earth in its orbit will for six months turn the northern hemisphere of the earth more and more toward the sun. Far in the north, beyond latitude 67, the sun will probably not be visible today, and where Macmillan is wintering only faint twilight may be seen in the south at noon. At latitude 45, from Maine through southern Ontario, Michigan and on to Oregon, the sun can shine less than nine hours, while the night is 15 hours long. At latitude 30, through northern Florida and the Gulf Coast, there can be a little more than 10 hours of sunshine. With lengthening days we can feel assured that the sun's heat will eventually count against the cooling at night and bring the spring.

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