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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University
tells:

WHY WINTER INDOOR AIR IS DRY

When in winter the air indoors feels abnormally dry, it is not because of steam heat or furnace heat or any other particular kind of popularly called "dry heat". It is simply a matter of temperature. The house is warm, and fair weather winter air is very dry, even out-of-doors. When the cold air enters a house where the temperature is at least 65 degrees, and in the American home it is usually higher, the dryness is highly intensified. Warm air can include as part of itself much more water vapor than can cold air, and therefore what little moisture is carried into the house becomes but a small percentage of what might be present after it assumes the temperature of the room.

Despite the fact, however, that the air of the room gives the sensation of much greater dryness than the cold air out in the open, in reality it contains a greater amount of water, as tests have proved, the difference running up to 5 per cent. The reason is the presence of moisture exhaled from the lungs, and derived from cooking, from plants and water surfaces, and in the case of steam heat from leakages.

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