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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University,
discusses

WINTER SNOW AND WINTER SPORTS

A map showing the distribution of skis and snowshoes, sleds, and toboggans would give some idea of the usual depth of snowfall. In Canada and the northern United States where the snow is too deep for small sleds in midwinter, except on roads, the coaster relies largely on skis and toboggans, which will carry him successfully over any depth of cold, dry snow. Even he who would walk, except on beaten paths, must take to snowshoes or skis. Considerable labor is required to keep ponds free of snow for skating. The cold is so protracted that elaborate ice palaces and snow figures may adorn winter resorts.

In a region somewhat farther south where the amount of snow on the ground is more variable the greatest variety of winter sports is afforded. Sleds are used most commonly for coasting, but the really snowy winter will bring out a good flock of skis and toboggans. Snowshoeing, being the chief outdoor diversion for the sedate and cautious, will persist in spite of lack of great depth. Skating is often good. In most of the southern United States, however, snowshoes and skis arouse curiosity. Only the sleds and skates appear, and even these must spend much time in storage awaiting their coveted opportunity.

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Science Service,
1115 Conn. Ave.,
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