

No. 236

A Science Service Feature

Feb. 13

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

HILLTOPS WARMEST IN COLD SNAPS

On clear, windless mornings in cold weather the hilltops are warmer than the hollows. Cold air slides down hill and forms puddles and lakes in which the thermometer registers much lower than on the slopes above. A twenty minute excursion with a sling thermometer at sunrise on February 18, 1922, at Worcester, Mass., proved this point most effectively, for it showed that there were actual differences in temperature amounting to 10 degrees Fahrenheit between the top of a hill 250 feet high and its base, and disparities of 5.5 to 7 and 8 degrees in a distance of 100 yards, with only 10 to 30 feet difference in elevation. In hollows the temperature ranged from 10 degrees to 16 degrees below zero, and on moderate slopes from 8 to 6 degrees below.

In windy, cold weather, the hilltop is colder than the valley, which profits by protection from the wind. Again, where the difference in altitude is a material one, the usual decrease of temperature with elevation makes the hilltop the cooler.

(Tomorrow: A Cold Morning Thought)

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