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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

THE IDEAL CLIMATE

Anyone living in the northern or central United States is likely to hear a good many hard things said about the climate, in the course of the year. It is too cold, or too hot, or too damp, or so changeable you never know what to expect next. It may be well to remind those who complain that the "two main areas in the world with climatic conditions most favorable to human activity" appear to be western Europe and this portion of the United States.

Prof. Ellsworth Huntington, of Yale, has studied the question of what constitutes an ideal climate. We must, he says, avoid continued extremes of heat or cold. An average winter temperature around 38 degrees Fahrenheit and a summer average not far from 60 degrees are thought to be very desirable. Such conditions occur in England and on our Pacific coast. Excessive dampness or dryness, as well as persistent extremes of temperature are not to be chosen. But a climate may be too equable; it is well that the temperature should change decidedly from season to season, from day to day, and from day to night.

The extreme monotony of weather in the tropics or the polar regions is enervating and depressing. So, too, monotony prevails in the vast regions of central Asia not crossed by storms. The United States, however, is blessed with plenty of storms to give variety; indeed, the Great Lakes region of the northern United States and southern Canada can pride itself on being one of the stormiest lands in the world! While California has a delightful climate for outdoor activity through the year, it is a bit too consistently good. A little really bad weather, now and then, is relished by the wisest men, who appreciate the value of relaxation. Hence Professor Huntington is ready to champion Boston with its east winds and London with its fogs.

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(Tomorrow: The Tornado Season in the South)

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