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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

THE OCEANS AS REGULATORS OF WORLD WEATHER

The ocean is a great heat regulator. It has been called a "savings bank for solar energy, receiving deposits in seasons of excessive insolation and paying them back in seasons of want." Naturally, then, marine climates are spared the great extremes of heat and cold which afflict continental interiors. Since the surface waters of the oceans contain such enormous amounts of heat, they exert a steadying and moderating effect on the climate of the world. It takes 3300 times as much heat to warm a given volume of sea water one degree as to warm an equal volume of air at sea level. The oceans both take in and give off heat, slowly and regularly, and temperature conditions of the water tend to persist a long time and to travel slowly. An unusually warm body of water may be followed for a year or two, as, carried by the various currents, it makes the circuit of the North Atlantic. This leads one to believe that, besides trying to predict the extremely variable state of the fickle atmosphere, one should give more attention to the conservative element of meteorology, the surface sheet of the ocean, where changes at one place may be observed months before they reach, and affect the weather of, some other place.

(Tomorrow: Water in Snow Accumulations)

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