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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

SUN-WARMED HOUSES

Some of those who bewail the high cost of coal, would do well to consider the low cost of sunlight for heating purposes. Only sunlight cannot accomplish much if it is shut out by heavy window draperies and shades pulled down conventionally just half way. If you wish to enjoy the sunlight in the cool seasons it is well to use only deciduous trees that do not shade the house in winter. Houses facing in a southerly direction are more desirable than those facing north, as the living room rather than the kitchen will get the benefit of the sun's heating. Less snow and ice will accumulate on the porches and walks on the south side of a house. If the house faces southeast or southwest instead of directly south all the rooms may receive sunlight at some time during the day, except perhaps in midwinter.

Some temperature observations in a house which had been vacant for a month may be cited by way of advertising the heating power of spring sunlight. During the period of vacancy the ground had been almost continually snow-covered and temperatures in general around freezing. When the house was opened about 3 p.m. on a clear day, the temperature outdoors was 46 degrees. The temperature in the unsunned cellar was 41 degrees, in the first floor rooms, somewhat sunny, 50 degrees; while in a small conservatory the temperature was comfortably high, about 70 degrees. Another house after two weeks vacancy in winter was found, on a sunny afternoon, 12 to 18 degrees warmer than outside even though a strong wind was blowing.

(Tomorrow: Rainfall Interception by Trees)

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