

April 25

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

CLIMATE

Climate is all the weather. The climate of a place is the aggregate of the weather that occurs there year in and year out for decades or centuries. Observations of the weather for five or ten years show pretty well what the climate is, but climatologists do not consider as satisfactory for a place in middle latitudes any record of less than 25 years. Fifty years, the length of the weather records of a great many stations of Canada and the United States, is better.

For convenience, climatologists record their observations by climatic "elements". The most important of these may be grouped as sunshine, temperature, moisture, and winds. The hours and sometimes the intensity of sunshine are recorded. The daily maximum and minimum temperatures and also those at certain hours are recorded. Temperatures of ground and water surfaces are often observed as well as air temperatures. The moisture element is noted under several headings: humidity, relative and absolute, precipitation, including rain and melted snow, sleet and hail, and snowfall. Times of occurrence and depths of rainfall and snowfall are particularly observed, especially now that rain insurance is growing to such proportions. Wind directions and velocities usually record themselves. Other items entering a climatological record are pressure, phenological observations, and miscellaneous phenomena such as halos, frosts, auroras, and thunderstorms. A fairly complete climatological record thus comprises a very wide range of observations.

(Tomorrow: April Showers)
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