

No. 347

A Science Service Feature

June 21

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

DISTRIBUTION OF SUNSHINE

Today, the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere, the sun may be shining throughout the 24 hours anywhere in the polar region. It may shine for two-thirds of the 24 hours at latitudes 45 to 50 degrees, or along the United States-Canadian boundary, but hardly more than half the day within the tropics. By no means all of this possible sunshine, however, is actually being received, on account of cloudiness and rain. A U. S. Weather Bureau report says that the fewest hours of sunshine in summer are found along the cool, north Pacific coast, where somewhat less than half the possible amount is usually experienced. In the interior of California, on the other hand, where the ocean air has become very hot and dry, 95 per cent. of the possible summer sunshine is really delivered, or an average of nearly 14 hours of bright sunshine a day. West of the Mississippi the daily average in most places exceeds 10 hours, while east of the Mississippi, where the air is more moist, and clouds more easily formed, the average is less than 10 hours. It is evident that no one in the generally inhabited parts of the United States and Canada need suffer from an insufficient duration of sunshine during the next two months, even though the sun is now beginning its southward journey.

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