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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

WIND ON MOUNTAINS

Any summer vacationist who indulges in mountain climbing knows that the first part of the climb is likely to be the worst. It is questionable whether the shade in the thick woods on lower slopes makes up for the lack of breeze. Quite regularly, the climber finds a most welcome increase in wind, when, after ascending 1,000 feet or so, he emerges onto ridges where tree growth is scrubby. One might say both, that there is more wind because there is less forest, and less forest because there is more wind. Plainly, outside the shelter of thick woods, one may benefit more from whatever breeze there is. It is also known that the higher one goes, the stronger the wind is likely to be, that is, wind velocity increases with altitude. High winds prevent the growth of tall trees. Near the ground, wind is always hindered by friction and can not move so freely as aloft. Mountains, furthermore, experience higher winds than similar elevations in the free air. In passing through a gap or over a ridge the wind may be concentrated into a flow of high velocity. One afternoon on Mt. Monadnock a small, portable anemometer indicated that the wind was passing over the top at a rate of 65 miles per hour. The observer stood at the head of a V-shaped cleft facing the wind. Cloud motion showed the average wind velocity for that general elevation to be only 30 to 35 miles an hour, while on the lowlands it was about 20 miles per hour.

(Tomorrow: Mountain Temperatures)

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