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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

VIEWS FROM MOUNTAINS

At what time of day can we obtain the clearest views from a mountain top? Unfortunately for the convenience of the climber, daybreak is probably the time of best visibility. Many a trampler starting out on a clear morning, is disappointed at the end of his climb to find his views obscured by noon day haziness. The clear, dry, descending air of a strong "high" offers the best assurance of good visibility throughout the day. On the mountain top, distant mountains can be seen most distinctly at sunrise, but the view of lowlands is better later, perhaps in the middle of the morning. Very early in the day, lowlands are likely to be obscured by fog or smoke; at this hour haze is concentrated in the lower air. With daytime heating convection starts and carries dust and moisture aloft. When the convectional haze reaches the mountain top, clearness decreases rapidly, a visibility of 70 miles may be reduced to 30 or 40. On higher mountains clouds, which commonly form by afternoon, may shut off all views until sunset.

By using yellow or red glasses one can see farther, on a hazy day, than with the unaided eye or with ordinary glasses.

(Tomorrow: Steaming After Rain)

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