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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

THE RAIN TREE

Prof. C. F. Talman, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, tells the story of the rain tree - a marvelous tree from Peru which is reputed to give forth a shower of rain from its leaves even in a drought. Trees purporting to be "rain trees" have even been sold by nurserymen. Early voyagers reported the finding of rain trees in the East Indies, Guinea, Brazil and the Canary Islands, now the name is given especially to the guango, a magnificent tree of tropical America.

All plants are known to exude moisture, usually in the form of vapor. If, however, the humidity of the surrounding air is sufficiently high, or its temperature sufficiently low, to check evaporation, the exuded water may collect on the surface of the plant in liquid form, and may ultimately trickle to the ground.

A few plants are so active in this respect as, under favorable circumstances, to produce this trickling in considerable quantities. This process, "guttation", occurs chiefly at night, or in cloudy or foggy weather. In a very dry climate it does not occur at all, and, for this reason, even if the so-called rain tree could be successfully introduced in such a climate, it would not help solve the problem of irrigation.

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