

No. 425

A Science Service Feature

Sept. 20

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

MANUFACTURED CLIMATE

Although man has not found it practicable to control weather on a large scale, in certain small ways he can modify the climate to his liking. With an electric fan in summer, he increases the wind velocity indoors; systems of refrigeration lower the temperature of cars or buildings; humidifiers add moisture to the air; furnaces create an indoor desert summer during the winter.

In many industries weather is an important control. Printing and lithographing, for example, are vitally affected by weather changes. Paper or cardboard printed one color one day may not register properly for another color the next, on account of the change in size and shape of the sheets caused by variation in moisture. Air driers or moisteners in operation night and day are not always sufficient to remedy the situation. Cotton mills prefer a relative humidity of about 75 per cent. as the fiber is not so workable in dry air, and cloth made under varying humidities will shrink irregularly. Modern mills now "condition" their air and keep the windows shut. Leather, too, may be injured by lack of moisture. In California, hot winds can in two hours make the leather so dry that it can not be worked, and so brittle as to be broken if thrown on the floor.

All rights reserved by Science Service

Science Service,
B and 21st Sts.,
Washington, D.C.