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A Science Service Feature

April 24

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BANISHING WINTER

April 24 each year, so we are told, the people of Zurich, Switzerland, banish winter "by making a dummy of white cotton filling it with fireworks and gunpowder, and blowing up the affair at six o'clock in the evening." Would the process were so simple! Perhaps we had better try this on our side of the Atlantic, for though banished abroad, winter continues to make us occasional flying visits, even sometimes till in May.

The climates of the north "temperate" zone lands are rather jumpy. Spring arrives sometimes in January, and summer makes its first brief visits in March as far north as 40 or 45 degrees. But winter is not generally disposed of till April, and even in June he may make a boisterous return with snow. Spring has little temperate weather: it is a sort of alternation of early summer and late winter. This is the time of year we have to be "on our toes" to keep up with the weather. If we do not, we suffer from being overheated and then chilled, often with consequent colds and coughs.

(Tomorrow: The Chemical Weather Glass)

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