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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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OZONE

Pick up the summer resort section of the paper or look over a camp circular and very likely you will find praise for the health giving ozone of mountain or seashore. Just what is ozone? Ozone might be called a concentrated form of oxygen, usually quite unstable as it combines so readily with other things. You can detect its peculiar and rather disagreeable odor wherever coronal or brush discharges occur in the air. But careful sampling of the lower air shows no appreciable quantity of ozone present either in forests or at the seaside or anywhere else. Small amounts produced by lightning discharges quickly combine with other substances and are lost. It seems, however, that at high levels in the atmosphere, many miles above the earth, ozone is quite abundant. Apparently it is formed both by ultra-violet rays from the sun and by auroral discharges. This ozone layer acts somewhat as a blanket to the earth, it interferes less with incoming sunlight than with outgoing radiation (from the earth). Variations in the ozone of the upper air, in turn dependent upon variations in the sun's radiation, may be a factor in temperature variations on the earth.

(Tomorrow: Strong Winds)

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