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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University.

WHERE NIGHTS ARE COOL

People can stand hot days much better if the nights are cool enough for comfortable sleep. The greatest differences between day and night temperatures, 30 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit, or more, are found in dry, interior plateaus. In Yellowstone Park, for instance, summer days are warm and sunny, but the nights and early mornings are so cool that tourists in tents are glad to pull up their quilts and feed the stoves with the famous kerosene and sawdust hash. Nights are generally cool, not only at high elevations, but also in hollows and valleys into which cold air drains. Such locations are likely to be damp and chilly. The least difference between night and day temperatures only five to ten degrees Fahrenheit is found on cloudy islands. Cloudiness keeps the temperature down by day and up by night, relatively speaking. Then again, water surfaces do not heat and cool as rapidly as land surfaces. Tropical summer weather is hard to endure because although the days may be only moderately hot, the dampness insures warm muggy nights.

(Tomorrow: Dangerous Thunderstorms)

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B and 21st Sts.,
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