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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SEASHORE OR MOUNTAINS ?

Which do you prefer, the seashore or the mountains for your summer vacation?

This question usually does not call forth a comparison of the climates, perhaps because advertisers use only incomparable superlatives when touching on the climatic advantages of their hotels or camps. Coolness, bright sunshine, breeziness, moderate temperature ranges and occasional mugginess and fog are characteristics both of coasts and of hill and mountain summits and slopes. But here the similarity ends. Afternoon showers on mountains find little parallel at the seashore.

But suppose you do not go to live on a hill-top or slope when you go to the mountains. What sort of climate do you find in the more accessible valley? It is one with a large daily range of temperature. At night cool air sliding off the slopes collects in the valleys and sometimes becomes foggy. By day the heated air cannot be blown out or pushed up the mountain slopes fast enough to keep the temperature from rising uncomfortably high in sunny weather. Temperatures, like topography, are up and down. At the shore, however, that great stabilizer of temperature, the ocean, holds the thermometer more nearly constant. If land temperatures get too high a cool seabreeze is likely to cut them down.

So far the seashore seems to have the advantage. But here is a final point: the shore is much more limited than the mountains. The shore is a line a mile from which the favored climate is not to be found; the mountains are an area with many square miles of temperature climate in summer.

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(Tomorrow: Temperatures at the Seashore)

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