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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University.

NIGHT AIR

Many people are afraid of night air, sometimes to the unpardonable extent of closing their bedroom windows at night. How does night air differ from day air? There is practically no change in the chemical composition of the air from day to night. True the carbon dioxide content may increase slightly, perhaps from .03 per cent. by volume to .034 per cent. but as we can tolerate more than one per cent. of carbon dioxide in the air we breathe, this change is of little consequence. Nor does the actual amount of water vapor in the air vary much throughout the twenty-four hours. But because night air is cooler than day air it seems damper, that is the relative humidity is higher. Dew forms readily on cool objects, evaporation is slow, things do not dry well. If air is cooled sufficiently, whole masses of water vapor reach the dewpoint and condense into fog. High humidity and low temperature then, give night air its chilly quality. The lowest temperature, however, is not reached in the evening; it does not occur till just before sunrise. At the earth's surface, night air is somewhat more likely to be calm than day air. Of course stormy winds will prevail both by day and night, but summer breezes, produced by the sun's heating, die down at sunset. The fear of night air may be based more on the high mosquito content than on anything else. It is now recognized that malaria should be attributed not to night air but to the malarial mosquito.

(Tomorrow: Moon No Forecaster)

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B and 21st Sts.,
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