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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University.

SUNNY HAZE AND SILENCE

Awakened by the loud toots of factory whistles a mile or more away, you look out on a clear morning at distant hills or buildings sharply silhouetted against the bright sky. At noon the same whistles are faint and the distant objects softened in a haze. The effect on visibility is the same as that experienced when after driving in the shade you come out into the sunlight glaring at you down the road. Your "clean" windshield becomes at once a hazy blur. You can sympathize with the man who never could get cushions clean in the sunshine but carefully did the job in the shade! You can see views best when the air and all its dust between you and the objects are not brightly illuminated. Of course all this has nothing to do with the weakening of the factory toots between the morning and the noon whistles. The disturbance of the homogeneity of the air by unequal heating and resulting convection is responsible for the dispersion of the sound waves and of the rays of light as well. Thus in two ways the sun is the destroyer of views and in one, the silencer of sounds.

(Tomorrow: Reflection From Land Surfaces)

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