

No. 764

A Science Service Feature

Oct. 22

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SUN VS. WIND

In an old fable when the sun and the wind had a contest to see which could first remove a man's cloak, the sun won and proved himself the stronger. The sun recently won again in another type of contest. One clear morning the sun was shining on a small mountain pond tending to warm the surface. The temperature of the water was 54 degrees Fahrenheit. At the same time a heavy wind was blowing, with temperature around 48 degrees. In this wind the temperature of a wet bulb thermometer was only 42 degrees because of the cooling power of evaporation. When the wind blew, then, it tended to cool the water in the pond to 42 degrees, the temperature of a wet surface. The wind blew its best, making little white caps on the pond; but the sun kept shining, so that by mid-afternoon the water in the pond instead of being cooler was nearly two degrees warmer. A shaded mountain stream, however, remained at the same temperature, 48 degrees. But the sun's victory in the pond is but temporary. On nights and cloudy days the chill winds of autumn are slowly but surely depressing the temperature.

(Tomorrow: Weight of Authority in Forecasting)

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