

Intended for use
Dec.28, but released
on receipt.

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed Dec.21,1925

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

OVERJUMPING WINDS

In winter a warm wind has a hard time getting down to the ground. It is frequently too light to displace at once the cold heavy air of valleys and lowlands. With the coming of a south wind, then, hilltops will warm much sooner than valleys.

One cold January night for example, a south wind struck Blue Hill near Boston. The temperature rose quickly reaching 32 degrees Fahrenheit by 10 p.m., while at the foot of the hill the thermometer lagged 15 degrees behind for six hours. This November a warm southerly gale raised the temperature to 64 degrees at Worcester, Mass. It was the highest temperature during the month, notwithstanding its occurrence at 2 a.m. At New Haven, Conn., the temperature did not go as high. As Worcester is about 100 miles north it might reasonably have been colder, but being 500 feet higher than New Haven it received the full force of the overjumping south wind and so was actually warmer.

The Chinooks, or warm winds, descending the eastern slopes of the Rockies, show this tendency to over-ride cold lowland air. Sometimes the Chinooks follow down the upper slopes and then jump across the region of the mountain base, striking the plain first 100 miles to the eastward. Under these circumstances, trans-continental passengers may find temperatures above freezing at the summit of a pass. The train then descends into a below-zero temperature, only to strike warm weather again a couple of hours farther on.

All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.

SCIENCE SERVICE,
B and 21st Sts.,
Washington, D. C.