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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HOT WEATHER IN ARGENTINA

WE HAVE BEEN so busy shovelling snow or coal and guessing how much longer the cold weather was going to last, that it probably NEVER occurred to us to wonder what kind of a summer the southern hemisphere was enjoying. This season Argentina had a particularly hot time, with adequate rainfall, however. Abnormal warmth persisted throughout the corn growing season, only three of the 13 weeks of December, January, and February being cooler than normal. During the last three weeks of February the heat was particularly marked, day and night together averaging above 80, or 8 degrees above normal. March, too, has continued warm. Unfortunately, the character of the southern hemisphere summer gives us no known dependable clue to our own coming season.

Correlations have been found, to be sure, but nobody has yet tried to use them as a basis for forecasting American weather. Argentine or central Chilean pressures at this time of year are employed, however, in making summer rainfall forecasts for India and Japan, for these pressures are representative of the globe-encircling, southern, subtropical belt of high pressure, from which the winds blow across the equator into southern and eastern Asia, though not into the United States or Canada.

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