

Released on receipt
but intended for use
April 27, 1926

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 20, 1926

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

WINTER AND SUMMER PRECIPITATION

Although it has been known to snow any month during the summer in many parts of the northeastern United States and Canada, we can say generally that snow and sleet do not occur in summer, nor is hail found in winter, but rain may come at any time of year. In northern Canada, however, the first rains of the warmer season come this month or next. Dr. W. J. Humphreys points out a number of ^{other} contrasts between summer and winter types of precipitation. Thunderstorms and showers, convectional rains, are more characteristic of the warm season, while "cyclonic" rains, or those connected with low pressure areas, prevail in winter. One point worth noting is that in winter the humidity is usually higher than in summer, the air temperature is nearer the dewpoint and so clouds and precipitation will occur with relative ease; a feeble storm or slight convection will suffice to produce rain or snow. When a wind has to rise and pass over a mountain it expands and cools, and rain frequently falls on the windward side. In summer, rain or cloud forms at a higher level than in winter because greater cooling is required before the temperature of the air reaches the dewpoint.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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