

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
December 4, 1926

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed November 27, 1926

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University

FICKLE TEMPERATURE

Winter is the most variable of our seasons in regard to temperature. No wonder the man on the street likes to speculate upon what kind of a winter it will be, as the range of possibilities is greater than for any other season.

A study of temperature departures at Boston illustrates well the relative freakishness of winter. In the 38 years dealt with by A.H. Palmer, 7 winters averaged more than 4 degrees warmer, or colder than the normal. Only one spring varied from normal by over 4 degrees Fahrenheit. One autumn was as much as 3 degrees Fahrenheit colder and one 3 degrees warmer than usual. Summer proved the most constant season of all, as only three summers varied from the average by more than 2 degrees Fahrenheit.

Years as a whole vary little in temperature. We can hardly speak of warm or cold years, as the greatest departure from normal temperature for the 38 years tabulated was only 2.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The longer the period, the more chance the variations of temperature up or down tend to balance each other and disappear in the average.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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