

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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TOO HOT TO PLAY!

While we are busy with winter sports, the word comes from Rio de Janeiro that outdoor games have been stopped during the months of December, January, and February on account of the excessive heat. In January, the average temperature at Rio is 80 degrees Fahrenheit, with the thermometer frequently reaching 100 degrees. The hot muggy weather is similar to that experienced in our Gulf States in July. Buenos Aires, in higher latitudes, fares somewhat better; its mid-summer normal temperature of around 75 degrees corresponds roughly to that of Delaware or the Corn Belt in July, though through January, 1927, temperatures in Argentina averaged several degrees above normal. At the extreme tip of South America January is as cool as July in southern Alaska or southern Labrador.

Next summer, when North America has its turn at the heat, most of South America will be free from severe winter weather such as ours. A large part of South America lies within tropical latitudes, and the weather of the slender southernmost portion is largely controlled and moderated by the extensive oceans on either side. Southern Argentina at 50 degrees South, enjoys an average temperature of 40 degrees in its coldest month, an average like that of North Carolina or Tennessee. At similar northern latitudes, along the boundary between the United States and Canada such an average for the coldest month is found only on the immediate Pacific coast; for on the Great Plains the figure is as low as zero and in northern Maine 10 degrees. July temperatures of Buenos Aires might be compared with January at New Orleans, while July in Rio de Janeiro resembles January in Miami.

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