

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
March 16, 1927

! WHY THE WEATHER !

Mailed March 9, 1927

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SUNNY ASHEVILLE

In early spring, the region around Asheville, N. C., enjoys stronger sunlight than almost any other section of the eastern United States. Dr. H. H. Kimball, of the Weather Bureau, measuring the radiation received from the sun in gram calories per minute per square centimeter, has computed that on January 21, if the day were cloudless, Asheville would receive about 350 of these units, an amount exceeded only in Florida. By February 21, the Asheville average for a cloudless day rises to over 500, and on March 21 the figure is over 600; both amounts of radiation being slightly greater than those shown for Florida.

The higher altitude of Asheville over-balances the advantage that Florida has in being farther south. Sunlight tends to be more intense at high elevations than at sea level because much of the radiation is absorbed or scattered by the relatively dense moist and dusty lower air.

It should be remembered, however, that although Asheville receives more sunlight than Florida on clear days, Asheville at this season, experiences somewhat greater cloudiness, and so the score is about even.

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