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A SCIENCE SERVICE FEATURE

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MANUFACTURING COOL WEATHER

A reiterated question of some years ago was: If buildings can be artificially heated in winter why can they not be artificially cooled in summer? This question is now out of date, because the long-desired artificial cooling is an accomplished fact.

One of the most familiar achievements of the new art of "air-conditioning" is the cooling of theatres. Nearly all of the more pretentious motion-picture theatres in our cities are now comfortable in the hottest weather. The air is drawn by means of a great fan through a chamber where hundreds of nozzles spray a cloud of refrigerated water upon it. By passing it through the spray three results are accomplished. Condensation removes the excess of moisture that makes the outdoor air muggy. All dust is removed. Lastly, the air is cooled.

The air leaves the spray chamber at a lower temperature than is desirable in the theatre. A certain amount of warm air is therefore mixed with it by means of automatically controlled dampers. A fan next draws the air through metal ducts to the top of the theatre. Through carefully designed diffusers located at intervals in the ceiling the cooled air is poured gently over the audience. There are no draughts. Lastly, the air is removed through openings in the floor under the seats.

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