

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
April 24, 1928

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 17, 1928

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

TWO KINDS OF TWILIGHT

The distinction between "civil" twilight and "astronomical" twilight, though recognized in the literature of continental Europe from the middle of the eighteenth century onward, seems to have been almost completely ignored in America until the year 1916; when its importance was emphasized in publications of the United States Weather Bureau.

With a clear sky, civil twilight begins in the morning and ends in the evening when the upper limb of the sun is 6 degrees below the horizon. During its continuance the illumination is bright enough to permit all kinds of outdoor occupations without the aid of artificial light, though the brightest stars become visible before it is over.

Astronomical twilight lasts much longer, as it begins in the morning and ends in the evening when the sun is 18 degrees below the horizon. At its close the last trace of daylight has disappeared and the faintest naked-eye stars become visible. The duration of both civil and astronomical twilight may be materially shortened by the presence of clouds or haze.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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