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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology

HEALTH RESORT CLIMATES

Professor R. DeC. Ward calls attention in his "Climates of the United States" to the widespread prevalence of the fallacy that many health resorts possess peculiar climatic virtues, not shared by the regions surrounding them. There are, of course, various local conditions that affect climate -- such as altitude, exposure to prevailing winds, proximity of lakes, etc. -- but their importance as related to health has been much exaggerated. No health resort has anything like a unique climate, differing materially from climates found elsewhere in the same region.

Professor Ward says: "What are popularly believed to be special qualities of the local climates of well-known health resorts are usually in no way essentially different from those of the climates of hundreds or thousands of square miles of surrounding country. The factors of most consequence in giving such resorts their reputations are not the special and peculiar qualities of their local climates but the combination of many conditions that render these places safe, desirable and agreeable residences for invalids and pleasure-seekers."

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