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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

CLIMATIC CYCLES

While meteorological records prove the falsity of the widespread popular belief that appreciable changes of climate have occurred in various parts of the world within the span of a human lifetime, these same records are thought by many meteorologists to show that variations of weather from year to year are not haphazard and fortuitous, but occur in a more or less rhythmical way. It is also held by many authorities that evidence of cyclical changes of climate is found in records of harvest dates, vintages, lake levels, the condition of ice in rivers and harbors, glaciers and various historical events; also in the annual rings of old trees, the annual deposits of silt in ancient lake beds, etc.

In fact, the total number of climatic cycles announced by different investigators runs into the hundreds, the length of the supposed cycles ranging all the way from a few days to several centuries; yet none of these alleged cyclical variations are so regular and so clearly defined as to be universally accepted by climatologists. The one most widely accepted is that known as the "Brueckner period". The late Prof. Eduard Brueckner found that average conditions of temperature, rainfall and barometric pressure for large groups of stations in different regions of the globe vary within comparatively narrow limits in an irregular period averaging about 35 years.

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21st and B Sts.,
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