

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

CLIMATE AND BASEBALL

J. C. Alter, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, has called attention to an interesting relation between climate and baseball. Players of the Pacific Coast League, which includes teams from several places in the far west and also one from Salt Lake City find that they can play a much better game at the Utah metropolis than on any of the Pacific coast diamonds. The batting, in particular, is conspicuously better, the balls being driven at much greater speed and to much greater distances.

"To the meteorologist," says Mr. Alter, "the explanation is not far to seek. The fact that the balls are knocked much farther in Salt Lake City may be due in small part to the sense of exhilaration felt at this altitude, though it is due chiefly to the diminished atmospheric pressure. As the meteor flies unhampered through space, but is slowed down on striking the earth's atmosphere, so ~~must~~ the flying baseball go farther in the rarer atmosphere when impelled by the same impact from the bat."

Salt Lake City is 4,300 feet above sea level, and the average atmospheric pressure there is 25.6 inches as compared with 29.9 at San Francisco.

As to the physiological effects of the climate Mr. Alter says that the feeling of exhilaration "is manifested plainly in batting, base running and fielding in spurts, but there is an abrupt loss of efficiency in base running scrambles and other fast and prolonged plays, because the players lose their wind or become tired much quicker at Salt Lake City."

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