

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
June 4, 1929

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 28, 1929

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

RADIO AND WEATHER

Radio has been credited with causing floods, droughts, tornadoes and weather disturbances of various kinds, but it actually has no effect on weather, though, on the other hand, weather may have some effects on radio. As to its alleged production of rain, Dr. W. J. Humphreys, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, says:

"To produce rain three things are essential: 1. Water must be evaporated to supply the necessary water vapor to the air. 2. Nuclei of some kind, such as minute particles of sea salt, certain products of combustion, etc., about which water can condense, must be abundant in the air. 3. The humid 'dusty' air must be cooled below its dew-point.

"Now radio waves neither increase nor decrease evaporation. They put no nuclei of any sort in the air (nor would it matter if they did, as there is always a superabundance of nuclei present.) Finally, they do not cool the air. All this is evident from the fact that in the neighborhood of a powerful sending station evaporation, 'dustiness' (abundance of condensation nuclei) and air temperature are the same, other things being equal, when the station is at rest as when it is in full activity."

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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