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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

A CLIMATIC LABORATORY

In recent years many elaborate studies have been made of the relations of atmospheric conditions to human health and comfort. The latest investigations in this field have recently been started at the Cincinnati General Hospital under the direction of Dr. C. A. Mills. For some years Dr. Mills served at the Peking Union Medical College in China, where he was much impressed by the severe disturbance of bodily functions resulting from the prolonged period of heat and high humidity prevailing in the late summer in north China. He has now fitted up a laboratory where these and other climatic conditions can be reproduced and where their effects on animals can be observed. Rabbits and rats are the subjects of these experiments at present, but eventually experiments will be undertaken on human beings. The effects of high temperature and humidity are studied in a so-called "summer room," and those of a cool and fairly dry atmosphere in a "winter room."

Dr. Mills looks forward to the time when controlled indoor atmospheres will be used in the treatment of disease. We shall have, he predicts, cold rooms for fever patients and hot, moist chambers for use when blood pressure gets too high.

"It seems sure," he says, "that climatic change of any type a physician may require for his patient can soon be prescribed and carried out within the hospital or in the patient's home. A climatic cure no longer needs to mean that a patient is banished from his home or sent away from the care of his own physician."

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