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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ARTIFICIAL WEATHER ON WHEELS

Air-conditioning and air-cooling plants made their appearance a few years ago on steamships navigating tropical waters. Now the same blessings are being extended to railway cars. Last April the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad provided artificial weather on one of its dining cars; the Santa Fe did likewise in August; and several other lines are said to have ordered similar arrangements, also on diners. Doubtless many sleepers and coaches will be air-conditioned within a few years.

In the present installations an adequate supply of outside air is drawn into the car through filters to remove dust and cinders. In hot weather the air is cooled by passing over extended surface coolers, after which it is distributed through the car by a system of overhead ducts. Cold water is supplied to the coolers from a motor-driven refrigerating unit suspended under the car. A spray chamber is placed at one end of the car.

Generally a moderately lower temperature inside than outside is found comfortable in summer, but it is varied according to climatic conditions. During a trip through the blazing Mojave desert the temperature in the Santa Fe diner was kept 37 degrees below that of outdoors.

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