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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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IDEAL INDOOR WEATHER

There was a time, many years ago, when people kept windows tightly shut to maintain what they supposed to be ideal living conditions indoors. Then came the vogue of the open window and "plenty of fresh air." Today many hygienists again advise the closed window, or, preferably, no windows at all. This advice implies, however, a first-rate air-conditioning system. It assumes that an air supply accurately controlled as to temperature, moisture, cleanliness and movement is preferable to average outdoor air, with its burden of dust and germs and its erratic variations of temperature and humidity. Perhaps some of these authorities go too far in their efforts to discredit "fresh" air, but their arguments are plausible and have gained a wide following.

One of the exponents of the new idea is Dr. E. V. Hill, in whose magazine, the *Aerologist*, we read that "ventilation" is a word that has outlived its usefulness. "It brings to mind," we are told, "old fallacies and keeps alive exploded theories and misconceptions. Ask a man about the ventilation of a given space and he talks of windows, intakes, air change and other things more or less inconsequential. Ask him about air-conditioning the same space and his mental reaction is entirely different. It is clear and definite. He thinks of machines. He thinks in terms of temperature and humidity relations, of air cleanliness, air motion and other known factors that can make man's environment always livable, always healthful, always delightful."

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