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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HOLIDAY WEATHER

In their book "The Weather and Climate of Chicago," published in 1914, Messrs. Cox and Armington present some interesting information concerning the weather that has prevailed at Chicago in past years on New Year's Day, the Fourth of July and Christmas. The facts do not bear out the popular impression that the "glorious Fourth" is nearly always torrid. Neither do they show that Chicago Christmases are usually of the sort indicated by Christmas cards.

As to hot weather on the Fourth of July, during the 42 years ending 1913 the temperature once rose to 102 on that date, once to 95, and in five other years to 90 or higher. That leaves 35 years in which 90 was not reached on Independence Day. There were two Fourths with a maximum temperature of only 63.

The records of the amount of snow lying on the ground on Christmas are given for the 21 years 1893 to 1913, inclusive. There were six Christmases with no snow on the ground, and four others when the snow covering was too light to be measured. The greatest depth was 8 inches in 1909, and the next greatest 4.3 in 1903. Thus it appears that Chicago rarely has an "old-fashioned" Christmas with good sleighing for Santa Claus.

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