

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology.

"PERPETUAL SPRING"

In many tropical and subtropical countries there are, as everybody knows, places of such altitude as to enjoy relatively cool climates and to afford welcome refuges from the heat of the surrounding lowlands. The "perpetual spring" that prevails in these lofty places is undoubtedly more comfortable and healthful than the "perpetual summer" prevailing at lower levels, but it has one serious defect. It is perpetual!

The late Prof. R. DeC. Ward, writing of mountain health resorts in the tropics, says: "Their temperatures are, it is true, lower than those nearer sea level, but although the temperature scale is lower the same monotonous succession of notes is played on it. They are temperate in the sense of having tempered heat. They are not temperate in the sense that they have temperate-zone characteristics of distinct seasonal variety; of constantly fluctuating weather changes; of the alternation from warmer to colder winds, from fine to stormy weather. That is the secret of their failure in solving the problem of acclimatization. They do offer immunity from certain tropical diseases, but they fail to provide the 'spur of the seasons' to which we are accustomed in temperate latitudes. The non-seasonal character of this so-called 'perpetual spring' is not by any means the best fitted for man's mental or physical development."

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