

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology.

CLIMATIC TEMPERAMENTS

Our forefathers believed that the preponderance of one of four fluids or "humors" in the body determined a person's "temperament," which was either choleric, phlegmatic, sanguine or melancholic. A German meteorologist, Prof. R. Hennig, has recently suggested an analogous classification of human temperaments on the basis of preferences in climate. He distinguishes four "climatic" temperaments as follows:

Southerly temperament. Fondness for hot summers, mild winters, plenty of sunshine and dry weather.

Northerly temperament. Fondness for cool summers, cold winters with snow; no marked preference in the matter of humidity or precipitation, except snow.

Easterly temperament. Fondness for a continental climate, with hot summers, cold winters, clear skies and dry air.

Westerly temperament. Fondness for the marine type of climate, with cool summers, mild winters, much cloudiness and precipitation.

The last of these temperaments, says Prof. Hennig, is the least common. A person with a "westerly temperament" considers November the pleasantest and most cheerful month in the year. This means the November of western Europe, which is a much more dismal month -- from the viewpoint of the average mortal -- than the November of the eastern United States.

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