

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 15, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

ARCTIC NIGHT

Prof. W. E. Ekblaw, of Clark University, who spent four years in the Arctic, tells us in his book "The Polar Eskimo" that the darkness of winter in that part of the world is not nearly so intense or so difficult to endure as it is generally supposed to be by people who have never experienced it.

"Even when most intense at the winter solstice," he says of conditions at Etah, in northern Greenland, "the darkness, except in times of heavy cloudiness and storm, does not approach the utter blackness of tropical midnight. For ten or twelve days of every month the moon circles the sky; the brilliant stars give noticeable light; most of the light that falls from moon and stars is reflected from the glittering snow and ice fields; and the eyes of the Eskimo, like those of the animals and birds that winter there, become adjusted to the diminished light, and all activities go on but slightly retarded or restricted by the absence of sunlight.

"Then about mid-January the soft rose and gold of the noonday flush reappears on the southern horizon and waxes longer and brighter each day until at noon on February 21 the upper limb of the sun, large and red, gleams soft and bright above the southern horizon for a few moments. The sun has come back. The long night is over."

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