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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

METEOROLOGY AND ASTRONOMY

It is a remarkable fact that a majority of generally well-informed people suppose the study of weather to be a branch of astronomy. Astronomical observatories are constantly being asked questions about the weather, while meteorological stations are called upon to furnish information concerning comets, sunspots and eclipses.

The science of weather is called "meteorology," and it is as different from astronomy as zoology is from botany. The domain of the meteorologist ends at the upper limit of the earth's atmosphere, while the infinity of space beyond comes under the jurisdiction of the astronomer. To be sure, the meteorologist and the astronomer have some scientific interests in common. They are both much concerned with the study of the sun, which is not only the ruler of our planetary system but also the source from which our terrestrial atmosphere is heated. Astronomers are also interested in certain varying properties of the air that affect the accuracy of telescopic observations. But for the most part their work lies in separate fields.

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21st and Constitution Ave.
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