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A Science Service Feature

‡ WHY THE WEATHER ?

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INDIA'S HOT WIND

A terror of the hot season on the plains of northern India is the wind called the "loo," or, "lu," which Kipling, in "The Man Who Would Be King," mentions as "the red-hot wind from the westward," that was "booming among the tinder-dry trees." The same wind is mentioned in a recent article by M.M. McKelvey. He says:

"Houses in India are built to resist heat, just as in the United States they are built with an eye to warmth in winter. High, barn-like rooms without windows, in the ordinary sense of the word, are best. Walls twenty-five feet high or so admit of sufficient air space -- a most necessary provision, since, with the first day of the shriveling 'lu,' or hot wind, every door and every narrow window-slit in the house must be closed tight by seven in the morning and kept closed until after sunset. This lu is one reason why we dismantle the house; such a wind will ruin pillows, curtains and hangings, and it will even warp pictures, just as it does doors. Doors with glass are darkened by strips of black cloth, verandas screened with bamboo 'chiks,' lined with black, to shut out furnace breeze and fierce glare. With such precautions, the house is at least cooler than the temperature without."
