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June 9, 1934

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed June 2, 1934

UNDEPENDABLE RAINFALL

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Rainfall is/most erratic and undependable element of weather. The amount of rain that falls at any place on a particular day or during a particular month nearly always differs rather widely from the "normal" amount for the same day or month, as averaged from the records of past years. Here are two illustrations of rainfall vicissitudes:

The village of Dresden, in northwestern Tennessee, lies in a region where the average rainfall for June is about three and a half inches and that of July about three and three-fourths inches. In 1928 the weather station at that place registered 18.67 inches of rain in June. During the whole of July only "traces" fell; in other words, no day's rainfall was large enough to be measured.

At Vicksburg, Mississippi, the rainfall averages about 52 inches a year. In 1874, 15 inches fell during the two weeks ending April 25. In the 38 days following that date, only half an inch fell, this being only 8 per cent. of the normal amount. In the two weeks prior to July 16, 7.4 inches fell; in the following 69 days the rainfall was only 0.8, or 9 per cent. of the normal. From September 22 to 26, 5.9 inches fell; in the following 36 days there was no rain at all.

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