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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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CONQUERING HOT WEATHER

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The problem of keeping cool when the weather wills otherwise is one with which mankind has struggled ever since the dawn of human intelligence, and some progress toward its solution was made a long time ago. The fan was invented in remote antiquity. The use of porous vessels for cooling water was known to the ancient Egyptians. Rich Greeks and Romans had snow brought down from the mountains to cool their wine. Ice was harvested and stored centuries ago and it was peddled to North American homes as early as 1802. In 1805 shiploads of it began to be sent from the United States to the West Indies, and in 1833 ice from the ponds of New England was sent all the way to India. Artificial ice and electric fans ceased to be novel more than a generation ago.

But the most remarkable of man's victories over hot weather have been achieved within the past decade through the introduction of methods of cooling indoor air at the point of intake and circulating the air thus cooled through buildings, railway trains, steamships, etc. By these methods engineers have, in effect, brought about a radical change in the summer climates in which millions of human beings spend several hours every day. The economic effects of this innovation can hardly fail to be revolutionary -- beyond anything we can now foresee. When domestic air-cooling becomes universal in civilized countries, the world will have witnessed a man-made change of climate almost as striking as nature achieved in the slow transition from glacial to interglacial periods.

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