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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 5, 1934

AUTUMN WEATHER

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Why, in our American climates, is autumn so unlike spring? Both seasons are transition periods between summer and winter, yet one is by no means merely a reversed image of the other. The downward trend of the temperature curve in the one season and the upward trend in the other can not explain why a particular sample of weather should be regarded as typically autumnal and another as typically spring-like.

A real physical difference between the two types of weather undoubtedly exists, and its investigation is a neglected problem of meteorology. On the other hand, the difference of which we are conscious is probably to a great extent subjective. The feeling of exhilaration and spiritual uplift that we experience on a fine autumn day, while partly due to the state of the atmosphere, is probably also in part a reaction to the sumptuous colors of the landscape, the soft haze that envelops all distant objects and the aroma of leaf-dust and smoke that pervades the air.

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