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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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DANGEROUS OZONE

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology.

"Ozone", writes Prof. Leonard B. Loeb of the University of California, "was at one time heralded as a vitalizing and health-giving product, a cure-all for disease and a wonderful disinfectant. The medical profession has long abandoned ozone as a particularly irritating and dangerous compound. The small amount of ozone created by a quartz mercury arc in a confined room during an hour or two a day for a few weeks has been the cause of serious chronic respiratory afflictions in several cases to the knowledge of the writer. Ozone is a germicide and thus as destructive of human tissues as it is to bacteria. As regards the oxides of nitrogen, the physiological effects, especially of those leading to nitric acid formation, are self-evident. Even moderate exposure to such products as produced by the high tension brush discharged from improperly protected power lines in a confined space leads inevitably to the more serious pulmonary infections such as pneumonia. In fact, it should be emphasized that the present occasional practice of purifying the air of theaters and public halls by means of ozone and its accompanying nitrogen oxides or by chlorine gas should be terminated until very much more study has been made of the effect of small amounts of these substances in air on health."

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