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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A LITTLE HYDROLOGY

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

There is a continual interchange of water between the earth and its atmosphere, as a result of evaporation, condensation and precipitation. According to a recent estimate of Prof. Wilhelm Meinardus, the amount of water present at any one time in the atmosphere averages about $1/41$ the annual rainfall. Hence the supply of atmospheric moisture must be renewed about 41 times a year on an average, and the water taken into the atmosphere by evaporation must return to the earth as rain or snow after a period averaging about 9 days.

According to the same authority, the rainfall of the globe averages about $39 \frac{1}{2}$ inches a year. The average is considerably greater over the oceans than over the lands; viz, 45 and $26 \frac{1}{2}$ inches, respectively.

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21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.