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Dec. 10, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Dec. 3, 1934

TEMPERATURE IN THE SUN

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Authority on Meteorology

The temperature of the air is the same in sunshine as in shade but that of solid objects differs to a greater or less extent, as determined by the nature of the object and amount of atmospheric circulation about it. If the wind is strong and the object is freely exposed its temperature in sunshine differs very little from that in the shade. On the other hand, the temperature of a piece of black-painted metal, so placed that there can be but little movement of air about it, may be many degrees higher in sunshine than in shade. In exceptional cases the difference may be as much as 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

These statements apply also to thermometers. The reading of a thermometer in the sunshine varies greatly with the strength of the wind and intensity of the sunshine, and always is higher than the temperature of the air. To get the true temperature of the air the thermometer must be shielded from both direct and reflected sunshine.

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