

METEOROLOGY

Hot Summer Ahead, Is Indication of Warm Spring

JULY and August are going to be warmer than average, if this summer's weather follows the pattern determined by many years of observation, states Charles D. Reed, senior meteorologist of the U. S. Weather Bureau at Des Moines. Mr. Reed bases his long-range forecast on the high-temperature record established for May and June.

May was an especially warm month over the country's great crop areas generally, with a "plus departure" of about six degrees for the month in Iowa. June has shown about two degrees in excess of normal. When May and June temperatures together are that much above normal they are practically invariably followed by a hot summer, long-time statistical studies have shown.

Mr. Reed's figures and forecasts are based primarily on Iowa conditions, and apply with decreasing pertinence over widening zones away from that midland center.

Based on the general temperature forecast is a second forecast by Mr. Reed, that not more than five per cent of Iowa's great corn crop will be caught by frost next fall. Over a fifteen-year period, the

average amount of frosted corn comes to 15 per cent of the total crop, so that the expected 95 per cent of the frost-free corn for this year will represent a very considerable gain.

The most uncertain quantity involved in this crop forecast is the question whether the excess temperatures to come during the next two months will be high enough to harm the corn. A let-up in the rains is normally to be expected after the end of June, but shortage of moisture alone is less damaging to corn than too high temperatures even when there is a moderate amount of moisture remaining in the soil.

Fears aroused by a dry May that the summer of 1939 would be another disastrous drought season have been well dissipated by a June that brought abundant rainfall. By contrast with its arid predecessor, June has seemed an excessively wet month, but official figures show only a slight to moderate excess in precipitation for the month. However, soil moisture is mostly in normal condition, so that crops are in relatively good situation for the long pull through the hot-weather weeks ahead.

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PSYCHOLOGY

Chart Shows Chances That Prisoner Will Make Good

CRIMINAL Court judges may some day be provided with "Prediction Charts" that will aid in pronouncing wise sentences, in the same way that actuarial charts enable life insurance officials to figure the "risk" on applicants.

A judge could use such a chart to figure just how good a risk any particular offender would be on probation, under suspended sentence, or in reformatory, jail or prison.

This suggestion is more than a fanciful dream of Utopian justice. It comes as the result of years of research from Dr. Eleanor T. Glueck, of Harvard Law School, student with her husband of hundreds of criminal careers.

Time has a strong reforming influence. Older criminals settle down or actually reform unless some mental condition prevents their maturing. The FBI removes records from the active file when the criminals reach "retirement age."

Scientific treatment of the criminal, therefore, should do everything possible to hasten the natural process of maturing. Educators, psychologists, and psychiatrists, and sometimes physicians can aid in this endeavor.

But mental and character growth is an individual matter and what is one

man's meat is another's poison in the matter of confinement and discipline or freedom and responsibility.

To cite an actual case, Dr. Glueck gives the chart figures for Martin. Martin was fifteen when he came before a judge. His chances of making good before the age of 30 were good—6 out of 10. His chances under probation would be 4, under suspended sentence 6, on parole 6.5, in correctional school only 4.5, in reformatory 3.5, but in prison, jail or the Army or Navy 7.

Under the present haphazard system of disposing of offenders, Martin was placed on a straight probation. He ran away. Then he went to a correctional school, where he was very difficult to handle. When paroled at the age of 17 he did well for 4 years and then again was placed on straight probation.

Again he defaulted but this time he joined the Army where he did exceedingly well. Since his discharge Martin has been no trouble at all.

The chart, based on Martin's history and characteristics, would have provided a scientific short-cut to this end.

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ASTRONOMY

Brooks' Periodic Comet Back to Region of Earth

BROOK'S periodic comet—first found in 1889 and which has returned every seven years since that time—returned within the range of telescopes of American astronomers, according to Dr. Harlow Shapley of Harvard College Observatory, American center for the distribution of astronomical information.

Of the 17th magnitude, Brooks' comet was much too faint to be seen with the unaided eye. It was spotted on photographs taken at Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton, Calif., by Dr. H. M. Jeffers and Miss Adams Wright.

Date of the discovery was June 17, at which time it was a diffuse object with nothing reported about its tail. Time of the discovery was 10 hours 52.6 minutes Greenwich civil time.

Its position on that date was right ascension zero hours, 7 minutes and 41.5 seconds and declination plus three degrees, 29 minutes and 20 seconds.

This position places the comet about 10 degrees south of the star known as gamma Pegasi near the constellation of Pisces. It passes the meridian line at 6 o'clock in the morning.

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Lake Mead, Boulder Dam's 115-mile reservoir, is still filling.

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