

the point of condensation, and thus serves to warm another and cooler locality.

This process, so vast that all the water power of the globe may be regarded as its secondary by-product, possesses, in respect to its tendency to moderate and equalize the temperature of ocean, of lakes, and of the climates of all the earth, a maximal value. No other liquid could, during the evaporation of a given quantity of material, bind so much heat; no other vapor could yield so much heat upon condensation.

Quite as important to man as this great power of meteorological regulation is the corresponding physiological activity, evaporation of water from the skin and lungs. In an animal like man, whose metabolism is very intense, heat is a most prominent excretory product, which has constantly to be eliminated in great amounts, and to this end only three important means are available: conduction, radiation, and the evaporation of water. The relative usefulness of these three methods varies with the temperature of the environment. At a low temperature there is little evaporation of water, but at body temperature or above there can be no loss of heat at all by conduction and radiation, and the whole burden is therefore thrown upon