

No. 10

A Science Service Feature

May 23

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society
says:

WATCH THE CLOUDS

Watch the clouds. Get well acquainted with them, for in knowledge of the weather they play the leading role. The best known, and probably the best liked, because it is usually associated with pleasant days, is the cumulus, detached, clean cut, having a flat base, billowy, the illuminated portions snowy white, the shaded parts usually dark. This is the cloud with the silver lining. When the atmosphere is dry the cumuli are the fair weather clouds, sailing along serenely, perhaps a mile high in the sky, some times widely separated one from another, some times in packs. But in muggy weather they are the nuclei of the towering thunderheads, which are as menacing as they are beautiful.

The stratus clouds are low and flat and foglike and of wide extent. They often merge into a third general type, the ragged, gloomy nimbus, from which rain or snow is falling. The fourth general class is the cirrus, highest of all clouds, of strange wispy forms. They appeal strongly to the imagination, their speed is so prodigious, their temperature lower than anything on earth, their distance up in the firmament so great and their portent of storm so significant.

(Tomorrow: Mares' Tails are Cirrus Clouds)

All rights reserved by Science Service,
1115 Conn. Ave.,
Washington, D. C.