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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,
tells of:

GAGING SPEED OF WIND

"Who hath seen the wind?
Neither you nor I,
But when the trees bow down their heads
The wind is passing by."

-Christina Rossetti.

A person can tell approximately the speed at which wind is blowing by observing surrounding objects, especially trees and shrubbery. In a calm, smoke rises vertically. In a light air, with wind less than three miles an hour, smoke drifts, but weather vanes are not affected. In a slight breeze, from 4 to 7 miles, wind is felt on the face and leaves rustle, and in a gentle breeze, from 8 to 12 miles, wind extends a light flag, and leaves and small twigs are in constant motion. A moderate breeze, from 13 to 18 miles, raises dust and moves small branches. The strong breeze blows from 25 to 31 miles an hour, and sets large branches in motion and umbrellas are troublesome. In a high wind, blowing from 32 to 38 miles an hour, whole trees are in motion, and a person breaths the blast with some difficulty. Then comes the gale, from 39 to 46 miles, when twigs are broken from trees and human progress is impeded. A strong gale blows from 47 to 54 miles, a whole gale from 55 to 63 miles, and still fiercer are the storm and the hurricane.

(Tomorrow: Rainbow in the Morning.)

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