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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

THUNDERSTORMS DO NOT RETURN

Sometimes a thunderstorm appears to return. It is here in all of its fury, it passes on, and presently it is here again, delivering more rain, more wind, more thunder and lightning. But, as a matter of fact, it does not return; it continues on its way. Additional cloud masses have formed at its rear to bring the rain and electrical discharges which seem to be a return of the initial storm.

The core of the thunderstorm consists of a heavy current of cold air and rain descending from aloft. This chilled air spills out from under the cloud bulk, forming a moving barrier against which the warm moist wind then prevailing acts exactly as it does when it strikes a mountain range. It rides rapidly up the side of the barrier, and in so doing expands and thereby is cooled, causing rapid condensation to take place. As the main mass goes forward, new thunderclouds form with incredible rapidity at the rear. The effect is as if the storm were returning.

(Tomorrow: Rainbow, Cone of Colors)

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