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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

A USEFUL BAROMETER LAW

Stand with your back to the wind and the barometer will be lower on your left hand, a little to the front, than on your right hand. This is what is known as Buys Ballot's law, which was established many years ago, and for years has served as a valuable aid to the mariner. By its use he can locate the center of low pressure in its relation to him. For example, if the wind is southeast, he knows that off to the west-southwest, on his left hand, but a little to the front of him, lies the storm center.

In this connection the rule of the United States Weather Bureau as printed on its daily weather map should interest those who like to watch the wind direction. When the wind sets in from points between south and southeast and the barometer falls steadily, a storm is approaching from the west or northwest, and its center will pass near or north of the observer within 12 to 24 hours, with wind shifting to northwest by way of southwest and west. When the wind sets in from points between east and northeast and the barometer falls steadily a storm is approaching from the south or southwest and its center will pass near or to the south or east of the observer within 12 to 24 hours, with wind shifting to northwest by way of north. The rapidity of the storm's approach and its intensity will be indicated by the rate and the amount of the fall in the barometer.

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