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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

UNSETTLED WEATHER

Occasionally the weather forecast is "unsettled" weather, a condition which may last for several days. It arises when areas of high and low pressure are not well defined; a very weak "low" borders on an equally weak "high". Neither has the power to dominate the weather. They are moving across the country very slowly, so deliberately, in fact, that they may become stalled. There may be showers or there may not. The forecaster cannot tell, because the usually sharp definitions are not present. In hot weather local conditions may take control, through strong convection, which is the turbulent interchange of air between the warm moist lower levels and the cooler altitudes aloft. No dependence can be placed on its being fair, nor can one be certain that it will rain. Finally, well defined systems arrive, and the forecaster comes into his own again.

(Tomorrow: Our Winds Turns to the Right.)

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