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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

STORMS THAT GO ASTRAY

A bane of the weather forecaster's existence is the storm which goes astray. Normally weather travels in beaten tracks across the American continent, and the forecaster, knowing from his map that a storm center is, say, over Cincinnati, and knowing its direction and speed of travel, may confidently expect it to reach Philadelphia or New York at about the same hour on the following day. He may predict fair weather with mild southerly winds for Baltimore and Washington and rain or snow with chilly easterly winds for New York state and New England.

But every once in a while, as when cold air and high pressure appear in New England, such a storm will veer off, and perhaps take a dip southward and pass out to sea near Cape May, and when it does so the previous forecasts made for the Atlantic states north of Cape Hatteras are upset. Northern New York and New England have beautiful, cold fair weather, while Baltimore and Washington have cloudiness and rain instead of the predicted sunshine.

A cyclonic storm may not only swerve from its predicted track, but it may also fail to produce rain or snow, without which to the popular mind it is not a storm at all.

(Tomorrow: Rain Clouds and Rain)

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