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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

THE CORONA

The rainbow-hued corona as well as the halo or "ring around the moon" is sometimes a concurrent forecaster of a coming storm. Its colored rings hug tight the sun or moon, the inside ring a whitish blue, the outer of the series red. It ^{more often} is observed in connection with the moon, for although it occurs fully as often encircling the sun it is noticed less frequently because of the difficulty in gazing upon the brighter orb.

The corona is caused by the diffraction of light as it passes through the spaces between water droplets. The smaller the drops the larger is the ring, the larger the drops the smaller the ring. When a corona is observed to be rapidly becoming smaller it may, in conjunction with other signs, be taken as an indication that a storm is imminent, because the more humid the air the larger the droplets, and when this change takes place quickly foul weather usually is approaching. The halo, the large ring around the moon or sun, is caused by the presence of a thin sheet of ice crystals in the high air, which occurs more commonly than a continuous thin sheet of water droplets in advance of a storm, for which reason the halo is more often to be seen before a storm. Occasionally both halo and corona are visible at the same time, presumably on separate cloud layers.

(Tomorrow: The Forecaster's Vernacular)

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