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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University,
tells of:

THREATENING MORNINGS

A certain type of morning is sure to mislead many owners of umbrellas. The day looks dark, to be sure, a low sheet cloud covers the sky, but no rain is falling. A column of smoke from a chimney rises straight, it is calm aloft. Typically, under these conditions the night was clear. A warm, moist layer aloft became cooled by radiation or by mixture with the ground-chilled air below, condensation occurred, and a thick cloud formed. If such a cloud is going to produce rain, it is likely to do so while the nocturnal cooling is in process. When morning comes, the sun shining through the clear upper air will soon dissipate this low sheet cloud, which was not a storm indication at all but hardly more than a sort of high fog.

(Tomorrow: Why We Need Barometers)

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