

No. 292

A Science Service Feature

April 18

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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

INDICATIONS OF FAIR AND MUCH WARMER

Just about a year ago a great warm wave swept over the eastern United States and Canada. Its coming was heralded not only by the Government forecasters, but also, in the northeast at least, by the rapid movement of cirrus clouds from the north. Normally, the winds at the heights of 4 to 7 miles which carry cirrus snow plumes are about west. This is because the air aloft in overflowing from southern, heated regions to northern, cooler ones is deflected practically 90 degrees to the right in our hemisphere. When the contrasts in temperature between north and south are large, the air flow is rapid and the cirrus clouds race across the sky, but when the differences are small these high clouds move slowly.

At times, the cirrus clouds move from the northwest, when the coldest weather is the northeast and the warmest to the southwest. With the normal eastward movement of the weather this means warmer to come in a day or two, and much warmer if the motion is rapid. If a great, warm current occupies a region not far west while it is cold in the east, the cirrus clouds come shooting out of the north and fairly shout "fair and hot tomorrow" to the cloud gazer who has been wondering when, if ever, this cool spring weather would let up.

(Tomorrow: Easter Weather)

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