

May 30

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

Says

DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE RAIN

The meteorologist's wife persists in defining a meteorologist as a man who always gets wet when it rains. Why does he get wet? Perhaps because he is so confident of his own weather wisdom, applied in cursory fashion to the morning sky, that he does not carefully follow the Weather Bureau's forecast. The observer at the central office of the Weather Bureau, however, wisely keeps one umbrella at the office and one at home. He does not risk his reputation unnecessarily, neither does he get wet.

Though the weather man's wife scoffs at his forecasts, she always asks for them on wash day and other important occasions, because he is more cautious in prescribing for her than for himself. He is more likely to suggest her postponing a wash day or taking an umbrella than he is to bother with an umbrella himself.

One factor which makes it hard for a weather man to carry an umbrella except when he is pretty sure of rain is the remarks of others who see him with it; for to carry an umbrella is to make public his forecast and possibly its failure. Yet the remarks following rain without ^{an} umbrella may be worse than those occasioned by ^{an} umbrella without rain. The Weather Bureau generally proceeds on the principle that it is better to forecast rain too frequently than to allow a storm to come up unannounced.

The safest way to avoid a wetting is to watch the Weather Bureau's forecasts, to study on the daily weather map the bases for these forecasts, and to watch the sky for preliminary evidences of wet weather. If rain is forecast and the morning clear, take your umbrella; if fair is forecast and the sky cloudy, it is usually safe to leave it at home.

(Tomorrow: Rain From a Clear Sky)

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