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A SCIENCE SERVICE FEATURE

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HOW THUNDERSTORMS MARCH ABREAST

Writing of New England thunderstorms Prof. R. De C. Ward of Harvard says, that where a storm front is described as extending for many miles across the country it is not meant that rain falls in an unbroken sheet all along the line. It is very evident that such rain front lines represent rather a more or less broken series of separate showers, which may vary their position with relation to each other, now closing up the front and now leaving a break in the front. The severe portions of a storm, for instance those in which hail occurs, are generally in narrow belts which move across the country with the storm as a whole, commonly in a line from the southwest to northeast. Similarly, breaks may advance uniformly with the rain front, and an observer anticipating a welcome shower may be left dry while rain falls on either side of him. Occasionally a particular shower becomes too large for a single unit and really divides, or a small storm at low levels may split temporarily in passing a mountain. In the case of a long line of thunderstorms the observer commonly thinks the storm more severe to the North or South of him than at his particular location. To the North or South it appears very black as he is looking into a long series of storm clouds, of greater extent in that direction than from East to West.

(Tomorrow: Hot Days after thunderstorms.)

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