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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BAROMETER UP THERMOMETER DOWN

"When the barometer goes up the thermometer goes down" and vice versa, is a pretty fair rule for winter and early spring weather. This opposition of barometer and thermometer curves is particularly marked when storms are strong and frequent. The diagram gives the pressure and temperature curves for nearly a month late this winter at a place typical of the storm portion of eastern North America. It is based simply on observations made daily at 9 a.m., and 2 and 7 p.m., such as may be repeated by anyone with an outdoor thermometer and an ordinary aneroid barometer, and plotted on a sheet of cross-ruled paper.

(Pick up one-column matrix of diagram and insert.)

As a storm approaches and the wind shifts to a southerly direction the barometer commonly falls and the thermometer rises. But the cold northwest wind characteristic of the rear of the storm brings the thermometer down and the barometer up again. The thermometer is likely to reach its depths and the barometer its heights in the cold clear descending air of the "high" or anticyclone which frequently follows the "low". Do not imagine, however, that your instruments of the weather will follow too faithfully this simple procedure - the way of the forecaster is not so easy.

(Tomorrow: Radio "Static")

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