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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THUNDERSTORMS IN "LOWS"

When a thunderstorm occurs in a general storm it usually marks one of two conditions. If the lower air is chilly, and perhaps foggy, and moving from an easterly direction, while the barometer has not been falling for more than a few hours, a thunderstorm is probably of the warm-front type, marking the arrival of considerable volumes of warm moist air at moderate heights. It is the increasing contrast between the temperature of such a wind and that of the colder winds higher up that leads to convection, or overturning violent enough to be characterized by such manifestations as downpours of rain, lightning and thunder. These overturnings tend to be localized where there is some upthrust given to the warm wind. If the surface wind, on the other hand, is warm and balmy, much higher in temperature than normal for the season, a thunderstorm may announce the arrival or close approach of the cold front, or advancing edge of a colder wind that is in some way violently displacing the warm wind that has prevailed perhaps for some hours. In either event a considerable change in temperature is likely soon to take place. Violent secondary phenomena of thunderstorms are not usually well developed in the colder months, on account of insufficient heat and moisture for these more intense manifestations.

(Editors: Pick up one column diagram of thunderstorm.)

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