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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BOISTEROUS WIND

A boisterous wind is usually a cold, heavy, descending wind; the gusts literally fall down upon us. Have you ever noticed how such a squall makes "cats paws" on a lake surface? The ripples spread out in all directions from the point struck. So, too, when a gust strikes the ground, dry leaves may fly out to every side.

With gusty conditions the direction and velocity of the wind are constantly changing. Upper winds usually move faster than lower, as they are less delayed by friction. They also are more deflected by the rotation of the earth and so in the northern hemisphere are likely to come from a direction to the right of that from which the lower wind flows. When a gust occurs, it means that a portion of the upper winds falls down, replacing the lower and bringing with it its own higher velocity and different direction.

(Pick up one column matrix herewith numbered 4-6.)

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(Tomorrow: The Supply of Solar Heat)

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