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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SUNSHINE AND SHOWER  
RAIN AGAIN TOMORROW

Successive clearings and cloudings of the sky during the course of a day, warn the vacationist not to make too confident plans for the morrow. Such conditions imply that the rain is due not to a disturbance of any size, but to local causes, to humid air and a distribution of temperature favorable to rapid convectional circulation. First the sun shines and warms the ground and lower air. This starts little down and up currents, presently clouds form where the humid rising air expands and is chilled. Perhaps a sprinkle occurs. The ground and lower air are shaded and cooled, convection and cloud formation stops. The sun evaporates the clouds, then the heating begins again and the whole process is repeated. Since these conditions frequently persist for two or three days sunshine and shower on one day may well be followed by similar weather on the succeeding day.

This type of weather is characteristic of the tropics but is not infrequent in temperate regions in summer. With southerly winds large masses of tropical air invade our latitudes, bringing with them a taste of tropical weather.

(Pick Up One Column Matrix 5-29.)

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(Tomorrow: Acclimatization)

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