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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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INDICATIONS OF FAIR AND WARMER

Thin cirrus, or mare's tail clouds moving from the north usually point to fair and warmer weather, a popular forecast in early summer. It is not always easy to detect the motion of these high clouds, for although they travel with an average speed of 60 miles an hour at this season their distance makes their motion not readily perceptible. Watching them against a tree or chimney helps.

Suppose you do find them moving from the north, why shouldn't this indicate colder instead of warmer? Usually this situation means that a low or storm area lies to the northwest and that the center will pass considerably to the north of the observer. You are soon to be in the warm draft of lower air from a southerly direction in front of the storm, but perhaps not near enough to the center to get rain. Nearer the low pressure center, where the winds are crowding, the ascent and consequent cooling of air is usually more rapid. Here rain commonly falls. But not all the moisture condensed comes down - some continues as cirrus clouds in a great curve eastward and southeastward, sometimes even southward. If you are close enough to the storm to get a wetting the cirrus clouds would probably be coming from between west-southwest and west-northwest.
(Pick up one column matrix 6 - 11)

(Tomorrow: Oriented Houses)

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