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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
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WHERE STORMS COME FROM

Some of our storms start as typhoons away off in the tropical Pacific where great masses of water vapor are available to supply the enormous energy of such cyclones. These visit the Philippines and Japan and, becoming larger and less intense, cross the Pacific to North America. Our weather map deals mainly with their journey across the United States. Once off the edge onto the Atlantic we dismiss them from our attention. But some of these storms continue on to Europe and even into Asia, perhaps to die out in Siberia, which is an unwholesome place for cyclones. Few storms are able to cross the vast dry and high interior of the continent, where water vapor and temperature contrasts, the sources of storm energy outside the tropics, are slight. So in the course of a month a storm may travel nearly around the world.

It is questionable though how long a low pressure area can retain its identity and should be considered the same storm. Some storms bud or give off secondaries to the storm, which grow at the expense of the main center. The parent dies off and the offshoot continues.

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(Tomorrow: Lightning Strickes Twice in Same Place)

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