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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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EQUINOCTIAL STORMS

According to tradition, we should look for the equinoctial storm today, when the sun crosses the equator on its southward journey. Even the equinox, however, fails to make the way easy for the forecaster. A sampling of weather data shows that it is just as likely to rain hard a day or two before or after the equinox as on the exact date, the sun's immediate crossing the equator has nothing to do with it. Along the south and east coasts West Indian hurricanes are possible at this season, and may pose as equinoctial storms. Then, too, this is the transition period when the summer type of shower is being replaced by more general rains and storms. Perhaps the first of these storms, with its high winds and rain on more than one day, and following fall in temperature, attracts more than usual attention.

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(Tomorrow: Sounding Balloons)

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