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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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DRY VS WET STORMS

Much of the air starting toward a low pressure area never gets there. It is left in the lurch as the low passes by. When a typical low moves along the northern border of the United States or through southern Canada the air over a region a thousand miles to the southeast and south starts northward. More often than not the southern states are already covered with a body of warm and humid air, which on being chilled and crowded upward on its northern journey becomes cloudy and rainy. But occasionally the South has just been covered with cold dry air which on moving northward remains clear. There can even be the anomaly of clear skies with low pressure and gales on the Great Lakes, an occurrence of late November this year.

If such a dry low, however, maintains its strength till it reaches the eastern seaboard the feeding air from the south now comes from over the ocean. It is humid. Rain sets in, and the immediate coast may have an inch or more of rain while the interior but 50 miles away gets not a drop. Just three weeks ago the eastern coast of New England had heavy rains under such conditions, while the interior received none.

(Tomorrow: High Barometer and Wind Prognostics)
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