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April 17, 1926

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 10, 1926

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KEEP HOPPING

We've had lots of weather this spring, though apparently no more than is usual at this season. Spring has a reputation for fickleness and for being absent when the calendar calls for her presence. One, two, three, go the storms in rapid procession, alternating clear with rainy, snowy or sleety days. Many Easterners were skeptical about the fair weather forecast for Easter, but the clearing came through on schedule. Now, with Patriot's Day of Bay Staters in prospect, Spring has another opportunity. Last year's April 19 was as "bad as they make 'em," with cold wind and rain on the lowlands and a heavy ice storm on the uplands of Massachusetts. On the other hand, April days have hit 90 degrees Fahrenheit even in New England.

March and the first half of April this year have given most of the people (except coal dealers, over-shoe and umbrella merchants) from the Mid-west and Great Lakes eastward a grudge, which they are taking out on the weather man. "When are you going to give us some spring weather?" say they menacingly. "This is typical spring weather; haven't you learned to expect snow, sleet, ice and rain as well as balmy days in spring?" retorts the weather man. "Keep the heavies handy - also the palm beach suit and rubber boots: but dress today for today's prospects, not for yesterday's weather."

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21st and B Sts.,  
Washington, D. C.