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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A PROPHECY, A FORECAST, AND AN "INDICATION"

A prophecy, published last summer, says that the coming winter will be a hum-dinger! The prophet did not tell what "humdinger" means when applied to the character of the winter, nor did he inform us how he found out about it so far in advance.

A forecast, more recently come to hand, seems more worthy of attention for it is definite and the basis for it is given. The forecaster maintains that he can predict the weather a long way in advance by the positions of the planets, and for a demonstration he selected November 25, 1926, Thanksgiving Day, giving us the cheerful prospect of windy, squally and cold weather, with rain or snow. Of course, hit or miss there will be some kind of weather, but the planets will have nothing to do with it.

Contrasting strongly with these, an "indication" recently issued has both the good points of definiteness and basis. It contains a statement in detail concerning the data on which it is based and it is worded with a scientific degree of caution. Here it is verbatim:

"Indicated Seasonal Rainfall in Southern California for the  
1926-1927 Season, by Geo. F. McEwen.

"The average of the observed seasonal rainfall at 6 selected stations from San Diego to Los Angeles for the ten year period, 1916-26, was 12.0 inches. The average ocean surface temperature at the Scripps Institution pier, La Jolla, for the interval Aug. 1 to Oct. 15, 1926, was 67.4 degrees.

"According to the correlation, during the past ten seasons, between the ocean surface temperatures at the Scripps Institution pier and the observed rainfall of the six selected stations, the observed temperature of 67.4 degrees would indicate a seasonal rainfall for 1926-27 of 12.4 inches, which is slightly above the average. La Jolla, Calif. October 15, 1926."

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