

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 7, 1929.

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A LIVING "BAROMETER"

A popular household "barometer" in Germany and Switzerland consists of a living tree-frog or tree-toad of the common European species--*Hyla arborea*--kept in a glass jar about half filled with water. The creature is provided with a little ladder, on which he can climb partly or entirely out of the water, and his movements are supposed to predict the weather.

Many observers have framed for themselves different rules based on the frog's posture and activities. Some people say that when he emerges from the water it is a sign of fair weather, and that the higher he mounts the finer the weather will be. Others assert just the reverse--that he goes under water when the weather is to be fine. One belief is probably just as foolish as the other.

If you should wish to construct one of these weather toys, you will find a good picture of the device in *Nature Magazine* (Washington, D.C.) for November, 1926, p. 282. The water should be changed at least once a week.

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