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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE DUTCH WEATHER GLASS

The "Dutch weather glass" is a crude form of water barometer, consisting of an oval glass receptacle with a curved glass spout extending from one side, so that the shape of the whole device suggests that of a teapot. It has a ring at the top for suspending it from a hook. The receptacle is half filled with colored water, the space above the water having no communication with the outside air, while the upper end of the spout is open.

With an increase in atmospheric pressure, the water falls in the spout and rises in the receptacle, and vice versa with a decrease in pressure. Sometimes a scale is etched on the spout. In former times this device appears to have been popular with mariners, and it has recently appeared in American shops under the new name of the "clipper-ship weather glass." The Museum of Industrial Art at Cologne, Germany, contains the oldest known specimen, which was made in the Black Forest.

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