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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 8, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

WEDGWOOD'S HORSE

An amusing method of utilizing the varying moisture of the atmosphere as a motive power is described in an old number of the American Meteorological Journal. A man named Wedgwood (probably Josiah Wedgwood, the great potter) made, on a wager, a wooden horse without joints that walked across a room. The horse had on each foot a sharp point directed backward. It was left undisturbed in a bare room, and when next seen had advanced from one side of the room to the other. We read:

"With every increase in moisture it increased its length, and, being prevented by the sharp points on its feet from going backward, it advanced its forefeet by a small distance; when the air became drier, it shortened and drew up its hind feet. Thus with every change of moisture it made a small advance, and, given enough time, it could go as far as desired. The same sort of motion may be given to an iron rail by laying it in the sun on a platform and fastening at each end a spike directed backwards. Each day it will be heated and advance the forward end; each night draw up the hind end. In the course of a summer it will make considerable progress."

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21st and Constitution Ave.
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