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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 5, 1932

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ALMANAC WEATHER FORECASTS

Weather predictions found in almanacs are in some cases manufactured out of "whole cloth," and in others based on theories in which the almanac-maker puts his faith, though science does not. In either case these forecasts frequently hit the mark. It would be a miracle if they did not. Writing of their application to southern England, a British meteorologist, W. H. Dines, said some years ago:

"Take the case of a weather almanac, and see if it is possible that one should be written that did not contain a considerable number of accurate predictions. In this part of England a measurable quantity of rain falls, on the average, on about half the days of the year, so that it is an even chance if any particular day be counted as fine or rainy. The almanac-maker, therefore, in dealing with the question of rain alone, has just as good a chance of being correct as of being incorrect, and it would be just as difficult for him to produce an almanac in which there was not one successful prediction of rain as to produce one in which every prophecy of wet weather proved true. Indeed, an almanac that was never right would be an extraordinary production, and would imply some kind of superhuman knowledge of the weather on the part of its producer."

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