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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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NEW WEATHER WORDS

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The vocabulary of weather is enormous and it is rapidly growing. The new International Atlas of Clouds, used by professional weathermen throughout the world, has brought to the general attention of scientific men scores of hitherto unfamiliar terms. The names now prescribed for the different forms of clouds include some that are altogether new and many others that were formerly used only by a few specialists. The same work contains a list of typical states of the sky, introducing meteorologists to such novelties as the "emissary sky," "rear sky," "pre-thunderstorm sky," "stratiform sky," and so on.

The advent of the Polar Front Hypothesis and of the new process of air-mass analysis -- the latest development in weather forecasting -- has brought a host of new terms and names into the vocabulary; such as "frontolysis," "occluded cyclone," "warm sector," "indirect aerology" and the nomenclature, not yet standardized, of typical air masses.

Of course, these scientific terms are intended primarily for scientific use, but they have a way of cropping up in the newspapers. "Air-mass" is now becoming as familiar to laymen as "stratosphere" and "line-squall" became a few years ago.

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