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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Sept. 15, 1934

DRY AND WET MOONS

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Among the many superstitions connecting the moon with the weather is the time-honored notion that the position of the lunar crescent in the evening sky indicates whether or not rain is at hand. There are two versions of this belief. According to one, if the crescent is in such a position that it will "hold water" the weather will be dry, while if its angle is such that water would run out the weather will be wet. The other version asserts exactly the reverse. (This is not the only case in which two familiar weather proverbs contradict each other).

The position of the lunar crescent depends upon the angle that the moon's path makes with the horizon, and ^{on} any given date it is always the same in places of the same latitude. Hence, if either version of this weather sign were well-founded, we should expect the same kind of weather, either dry or rainy, to prevail on a given date throughout a belt of latitude extending around the globe. Of course there is no such uniformity of weather in relation to latitude.

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