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Why it rains! The fundamental process in nature causing rain is the cooling of air with which invisible water vapor is mixed. The cooling must bring the vapor to or near the saturation point, which is the same as saying that the humidity becomes 100 per cent. Air is cooled in various ways, but the most vigorous cooling is brought about by air rising. Air rises because it is warmer than surrounding air, or because it overruns colder air, or is being forced up an incline. Other ways of cooling are: (1) air moving from low to higher latitudes, (2) warm air blowing over a colder surface, (3) air in contact with a surface cooled by radiation, and (4) air cooling by radiating its own heat. But these last four ways seldom cause rain.
