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Rain! More and more is being learned as to just what processes bring about precipitation. Formerly it was thought that the process was a simple one: water vapor remained in that state until the air was cooled to 100% humidity, then condensation caused visible clouds of liquid droplets, which grew larger by continued condensation and finally fell as rain. This is now known to be wrong. It is known that condensation on certain nuclei (dust particles) may begin with humidity as low as 80%; and that if no nuclei were present condensation could only take place with supersaturation, say 300%. Further, it is now thought that an essential condition is that water in the clouds must exist as both liquid and solid ice.
