

atmosphere must come from the Atlantic, and more especially the sub-tropical portions of that ocean; to know that precipitation, by taking moisture from the air, not only lowers the temperature, but causes a partial vacuum, which necessitates something taking its place. That something is usually the highly rarified, and very cold, dry air of the upper regions, which rushes down, not from the North Pole or Arctic Regions, as some think, but from the stratas above us. The great blow which follows a period of heavy rain or snow necessarily continues until the partial vacuum it leaves is filled. The air remains steady then, in its very cold condition until heated up again by the Sun and the introduction of vapor.

It is also good to keep comprehensive records. Blank books for weather clippings are a part of my library. These are tabulated by months, and kept for reference along with the reports from my weather observers. Temperature charts, showing the whole year at a glance, are also useful. So also, is the "Vennor System," which may be briefly summed up in the expression, "The weather repeats itself." Consequently by going back to a year when exactly similar conditions obtained, he would anticipate what was in store from what then followed.

What I have said, although only on the threshold of my subject, has doubtless been sufficient to show, that, in forecasting the weather, guess-work has to be laid aside for something much more systematic. (Applause.)

OUR SISTER PLANET.

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Some evenings when the Sun has disappeared, a star of great brilliancy shines out from a few degrees above the horizon. It is the planet Venus, the most important of the inferior planets. The movements of Venus seem remarkable; after having followed its track from West to East for a time, it seems to hesitate, stop, retrace its steps, hesitate again, as though undecided which course to follow, and finally resume the track it had previously abandoned. After several times