

THE MOON AND THE WEATHER.*

OTTO KLOTZ, LL.D., F.R.A.S.

We have learned of the physical constitution of the moon, of her volume and mass, of her phases and rotation, of her borrowed light, of her gravitational or tidal effect on the earth—and now what about her connection with our weather, what about change of the moon, change of weather?

Let us calmly do a little bit of reasoning about this; let us use just a little bit of common sense, and see what conclusion we inevitably arrive at.

The change of the moon, what does it mean? Changing from more light to less, or less to more; that is all, and that goes on constantly, uniformly, from day to day. Practically, there is as much change on any one day as on any other day, so that change of moon as designating something apart from every day occurrence is in reality a misconception. Even if we were to admit certain changes as something quite apart from other lunar characteristics, we will ask, what is it that distinguishes them from other times? The only answer is, that the amount of light we receive is different from that at other times. We all know that the sun is the cause and source of the circulation of our atmosphere, upon which depends our weather. Now, the light received by the full moon is about the 1-600,000 part that of the sun, and, of course, for the other phases still less, vanishing completely at new moon, being on the average only the one millionth that of the sun, which is equivalent to saying that the sun gives us as much light and heat in 30 seconds as the moon does in a year.

Is it then reasonable to expect that the changes in quantity of this minute amount of light—of which furthermore only a fraction is available as heat, for to have any effect on weather we have to deal with heat rays—this diluted light, this homeopathic emanation, would have any effect on our weather? Certainly not. And, remember that when it is new moon or change in Halifax, it is new moon in Ottawa, in Winnipeg, in Calgary, in Vancouver; indeed it is new moon in Japan, in Siberia, in Russia, in England, in Australia, in New Zealand, in Africa, in fact, everywhere. With one accord, however, our weather-wise moon prophets shout, "change in the weather." Don't you think this is a pretty big contract to turn the crank at this particular moment of "change," to change the weather over the whole

*(Note: On Feby. 29 last Dr. Klotz gave a popular illustrated address at the Observatory on "The Moon". We give the following extract, in which he refers to the Moon and the Weather, as it will undoubtedly be of particular interest to our readers. Editor).—