

parts of the earth have cloudy skies for one half or more of their daylight hours, we shall find that these are the most fertile and most thickly inhabited countries. The places which have fewest clouds—happy lands, as we might think them—are for the most part dry deserts. No wonder, then, that the general colour of the earth as we see it from our sphere is a clear silvery white.

But we must have a definite picture of this planet of ours to take back with us and show our friends. So we get our camera ready, and since it is only a kind of moonlight that is coming to us from the earth, we must give our plate a long exposure. Just to make sure of having a good picture, we develop the first plate while we expose a second.

In due time the picture appears; but surely there is something wrong with the plate! The edge of the earth's disc is quite sharp and distinct, but all the markings which were so clear to the eye have come out as mere blurred streaks on the photograph. When our second plate is developed, we find precisely the same kind of streaky marks as before! The cause of this blurring soon becomes evident—the earth has not kept still during the time we had our plate exposed. If we watch the earth itself for a while, we see that it is still moving. All the patches of colour are farther to the right than they were a little while ago.

We set ourselves to watch the markings on the earth's disc, and soon we find that any prominent patch of colour which we select travels from one side of the circle to the other in twelve hours. That is just what we might have expected. The earth is, of course, spinning round continually, making a complete turn every twenty-four hours. Whenever any part of it comes round to the side next us, on which the sun is shining, that part passes through the sunrise line into full day. It swings round towards the other side of the shining disc, and passes through the sunset line back into twilight and night.

As we examine our blurred photographs, we notice that the streaks made by the moving patches do not lie straight