

Letters To The Editor

551·515 : 551·576·11

CLOUD DRIFT ANTECEDENT TO NOR'WESTERS AT CALCUTTA

Many citizens of Calcutta might have noticed that a drift of medium clouds from the northwest or west accompanied by a southerly surface wind often presages a Nor'wester at this station. Details of the drift of medium clouds during the period, 1-15 May 1953, a period of severe Nor'wester activity at Calcutta, are given in Table 1 below.

The time interval between the appearance of *Ac* clouds and the occurrence of Nor'westers varied between 3 hours 25 minutes on 6 May and 1 hour 26 minutes on 4 May. The average interval during the above period was 2 hours 14 minutes.

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TABLE 1

| Date May 1953 | Time of observa- tion | Surface wind | Cloud data | | | Particulars of Nor'westers | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|----------------------------|--------|-------|---|----|
| | | | Kind | Amount | Drift | Time | Squall | | Time between appear- ance of <i>Ac</i> and occurrence of Nor'westers | |
| | | | | | | | Dir. | Speed | | |
| | | | (IST) | (Oktas) | (IST) | (knot) | h | m | | |
| 2 | 1450 | SW | <i>Ac</i> | 2 | NW | 1705 | NW | 62 | 2 | 15 |
| 4 | 1208 | SW | „ | 4 | NW | 1334 | NNE | 53 | 1 | 26 |
| 6 | 1500 | SSW | „ | 1 | NW | 1825 | NW | 58 | 3 | 25 |
| 8 | 0750 | S | „ | 2 | W | 1030 | NNE | 34 | 2 | 40 |
| 9 | 1420 | SW | „ | 2 | NW | 1610 | NW | 87 | 1 | 50 |
| 12 | 0735 | S | „ | 1 | W | 0935 | NE | 42 | 2 | 00 |
| 14 | 1550 | SW | „ | 2 | NW | 1750 | N | 58 | 2 | 00 |