

*must*, one would think, manifest itself in some effect or other on our weather and climates. Such, however, does not yet appear to be the case. The most obvious consequence would seem to be a periodical return of *hot* and *cold* years, which, however, the average registered temperatures of successive years in different places have not borne out. Yet, after all, it is possible that meteorologists may here have been on a wrong scent, and that increased emission of heat from the sun may make itself felt, not so much in any material increase of the average annual temperature, as in an increased generation of vapour from the ocean; in a much more copious and immediate rainfall in the equatorial regions of the globe, and in a sensible increase of it over the whole earth's surface: but especially in a more cloudy state of the general atmosphere, consequent on the introduction of a larger amount of vapour into it; and in an increased tendency to atmospheric disturbance and barometric fluctuation. No one who has watched with disappointment the rapid upcast of cloud on a calm morning commencing with unclouded sunshine, which blots the prospect of a glorious summer day, and who has seen the same change take place day after day, often for weeks in succession, can have failed to be struck by that self-induced interposition of a veil between the sun and the earth's surface which mitigates the ardour of his beams and tempers them to the requirements of animal and vegetable life. The increased heat, or by far the greater part of it, may be expended in *re-evaporating the upper surface of this very cloud*, and, by so doing, simply