

The third day it again said "Rain," and I stayed home. Again it was a beautiful day.

On the fourth day the paper said, "Clear and bright," so I took the train for a distance and then started to walk. Before an hour had passed the rain began to pour down, If the forecasters had only stuck to their first statement they would have eventually hit it right!

The weather forecasting service is probably far more accurate in many other areas than in the Philadelphia area, since that is in a region where many currents come together and it is difficult to say which will be dominant at any particular time. Yet this illustration showed clearly how difficult it is to make predictions of the future, even with the extensive facilities possessed by the weather bureau.

Those who belong to my generation can easily remember the many wonderful missionary talks that we heard during World War II. We were frequently told how much the Chinese people appreciated the work of the missionaries and the help of the American soldiers during the war. Over and over we would hear a missionary say: "When this war is over there will be a tremendous extension of missionary work in China. With the great friendship that the Chinese now have for the Americans, our missionaries will receive a tremendous hearing as soon as the war is over, and within ten years Christianity will be known throughout the length and breadth of that country." Yet within ten years after the war not a single missionary was left in China. Within fifteen years after the war it was impossible to hold a Christian service anywhere in China that would be open to the public. How wrong all these predictions had been! Those who made them never dreamed that the communist forces would quickly sweep over China and utterly destroy Christianity in that vast area.

Bank in January 1939 I picked up a copy of Liberty Magazine which stated on the cover that it contained an astrologer's predictions about the important events that would occur in the year that was just beginning. It said that this astrologer was widely known and respected for his great ability to predict the future. Consequently