

The Modern Meteorologist.

I am the very model of a modern Meteorologist,
A scientific calling and one needing no apologist.
I diagnose the weather without any doubt or lingerin',
The forecast turns out well on days I haven't got my finger in.
I'm pally with St Swithin and Old Moore's an ancient friend of mine
J Pluvius, the weather clerk and Buchan often sends a line
And if it's necessary I'm delighted to inspire a
Correspondence with the shades of Ananias and Sapphira.
I explain my charts to callers in a useful terminology
Of words that might mean anything, of doubtful etymology:
Houdini isn't in it, I'm that noted escapologist,
That equivocating casuist, the modern Meteorologist.

I keep the pilots well supplied with "gen" on visibility,
The customers are satisfied, our motto is civility.
I tell them what the weather's like from Yeovilton to Stornoway,
And answer silly questions till the telephone is worn away.
To please the plotting office Wren I read the anemometer,
And give her information, though I'd rather throw a bomb at her:
But the duty I like best of all my duties is the daily 'un,
Explaining things away with learned words sesquipedalian,
For when I get involved in conversation catechitical,
I obfuscate the questioner with answers most political.
The science doesn't matter, I'm a skilful escapologist
Who'll get away with anything, a modern Meteorologist.

In fact when I know what is meant by equigeopotential,
When I can speak to brass-hats in a manner consequential,
When I have learned to change a simple statement to a paragraph,
And tell unhesitatingly a wind-vane from a barograph:
When I can make Commander (F) believe my forecasts fictional
And carefully constructed with the help of rules predictional,
When I've become a walking encyclopaedia of weather lore,
I'll qualify to occupy that office on the nether floor,
When I can make a forecast read in terms still MORE ambiguous,
And base emphatic statements in synoptics quite exiguous,
Then I'll consider I've become that brilliant escapologist,
The pilot's guide and counsellor, the modern Meteorologist.