Two kinds of storms bring practically all the precipitation in the Lehigh Valley and effect the greatest changes in temperature and in the winds. These are the extratropical cyclones and the thunderstorms. In some respects these are not definitely separable as the thunderstorms may be a part of the larger cyclones.

**Extratropical Cyclones**

The extratropical cyclones are great spirally whirling masses of air several hundred miles in diameter that sweep across the country from