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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University,
says:

SNOW IS MOSTLY AIR

Even a heavy snowstorm does not represent a great amount of water. The usual reckoning of newly fallen snow is one inch of water to 10 or 12 inches of snow. When the snow is light and fluffy the ratio is even greater. Snow is very largely air, varying from three parts of air to one of ice crystals, ^{to} a proportion of 30 to one. This is for newly fallen snow. As it mats down and becomes more nearly a solid sheet of ice the proportion of air decreases very much, so that the water content per cubic inch is much greater. The snowshoer or the traveller on skis can roughly gauge the volume of air in snow by the depth to which he sinks into the surface. On newly fallen snow in the far north and on high mountain slopes the web of the snowshoe must be of large area to support a man, merely because the snow contains so much of air and so little of ice.

(Tomorrow: Medicine Hat, "Cold Wave Factory")

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