

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
March 1, 1927

! WHY THE WEATHER !

Mailed Feb. 21, 1927

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

THE BOUNDING LION

When the March lion roars through the trees he does not roar all the time. He is decidedly intermittent - letting loose with each passing gust. These gusts have more than a horizontal motion; they are heavy falling masses of air that on open water make "catspaws", or should we say "lionspaws"?

The onrush of a cold wind - so rapid along the ground at times - is still greater up in the air a few hundred yards, out of the frictional drag of the ground. Rushing forward, this higher portion of the wind is repeatedly stumbling and falling to earth wherever it runs over or approaches much warmer air masses. Down comes a cold snow-raising or dust-raising blast, then another and another as portions of the heavy wind descend.

Owing to the friction of the wind with trees and other obstructions on the ground the speed of the wind at a moderate height over land is generally twice as great as that at the ground. This is why it is possible at times for a cold wave to come with unusual suddenness, and to reach perhaps twice as far south in one night as the average speed of the surface wind would ^{have} permitted the cold air to advance.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D. C.