

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
May 18, 1928.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 11, 1928.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

SOME WEATHER FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

The term "ballistic wind" is applied in gunnery to a fictitious wind which, if affecting a projectile throughout its flight, would produce the same total effect in deflecting it from its course and altering its range as do the various winds that it actually encounters.

The pogonip is a fog composed of fine needles of ice, which occurs in winter in mountainous regions of the western United States. It is reputed to be dangerous to the lungs and is greatly dreaded by the Indians.

When diverging beams and shadows extend downward from the sun the idea popularly prevails that the sun is "drawing water". No such process actually occurs, however. The beams are seen when the air is charged with dust or a watery haze, made visible by the solar rays. The intervening shadows are those of clouds.

Dozens of different forms of solar and lunar halos have been classified. Some are very common, while others have been reported only once or twice in the history of science. Each of them has been given a name -- such as "halo of 22 degrees", "parhelic circle", "anthelion", "circumzenithal arc", "arcs of Lowitz", etc. -- but a great many scientific men who rush into print with descriptions of halos they have seen have evidently never heard of this nomenclature!

Tropical cyclones are called hurricanes in the West Indies, typhoons on the China coast and baguios in the Philippines.

An upward jolt experienced by an aviator, as if running over an obstacle, is described as a "bump", and air containing such irregularities, due chiefly to rising currents, is said to be "bumpy".

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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