

A Science Service Feature

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LEARNING THE CLOUDS

Learning the names of the clouds is as important a part of a liberal education as learning the names of the common birds and wild flowers, but/is beset with certain difficulties. Some clouds are easily assigned to their proper classes, but others/defy classification. The International Cloud Classification, now generally used by meteorologists, is set forth by means of descriptions and pictures in a great many easily accessible books, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, works on meteorology, etc., but unfortunately the information presented is often inaccurate or ambiguous. This statement applies particularly to the pictures. The finer details of the clouds are frequently obscured by printing on poor paper, and it is not at all uncommon for pictures to be erroneously labeled. The standard authority on the subject, the International Cloud Atlas, of which the latest edition appeared in Paris in 1910, has long been out of print, and a new edition, now in preparation, will probably not be published in the near future.

Two illustrated books on clouds that can be recommended are G. A. Clarke's "Clouds" (London, 1920), and W. J. Humphreys' "Fogs and Clouds" (Baltimore, 1926).

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