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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AIR WAVES FROM METEORITES

A postscript has just been added to the story of the great fall of meteorites that occurred in the heart of a Siberian forest, far from civilization, on June 30, 1908. The details of this fall and its effects, brought to notice by the Russian explorer Kulik in 1928, created a world-wide sensation. The impact of the fall not only plowed up the ground over a wide area but sent out a blast of air, heated by compression, which felled and scorched the trees of the forest for miles around. Even in the nearest settlement, fifty miles away, people were knocked down and houses were damaged by the wind. The air waves were registered by barographs at distant observatories in Siberia, while the vibrations of the ground were registered by a seismograph as far away as Jena, Germany.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society, in London, Dr. F.J.W. Whipple called attention to the fact that sensitive barographs in England also recorded the atmospheric disturbance due to this event. The air waves took five hours to travel from Siberia to England, their velocity being a little greater than that of the waves caused by the famous eruption of Krakatau, which made the circuit of the globe four times.

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