

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology.

WEATHER NOISES

Weather is responsible for a great variety of sounds. A discussion of these sounds by Dr. Humphreys, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, explains in detail why snow creaks or cries under boots and wagon wheels in very cold weather, why thunder rumbles and occasionally begins with a musical note, why winds howl, wires hum, trees whisper and forests murmur. His paper on this subject was published in the Journal of the Franklin Institute in 1921. Not the least interesting feature of this paper is an enumeration of the following "odds and ends":

The rustle of leaves, due to the rubbing together of the foliage as trees and branches are shaken by the wind.

The roar and whirr of the tornado, due to the wrecking of things in its path, wind eddies engendered by every obstruction, and the more or less continuous rumble of thunder.

The patter of rain, the rattle of sleet and the clatter of hail.

The detonations of meteorites, due to violent disruptions owing to sudden and intense heating in passing through the resisting medium of the air.

The sizzle of St. Elmo's fire.

The alleged swish of the aurora; probably due to autosuggestion.

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