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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A NEW CLOUD ATLAS

The textbooks on meteorology published in recent years, as well as the current editions of the encyclopedias, unabridged dictionaries and various other reference books, contain definitions of the terms applied to the different forms of clouds, as recognized in the International Cloud Classification. All of these works now require amendment on account of changes in this classification recently adopted by meteorologists.

An international commission has been at work since 1922 on a revision of the classification and the preparation of a new edition of the International Cloud Atlas. Last year a provisional edition of the atlas was distributed to official meteorological institutions for comment and suggestions. The complete atlas has not yet appeared in final form, but an abridged edition for the use of observers has just been published in Paris in three separate versions -- French, English and German. The text is accompanied by 41 plates of cloud pictures, printed in two colors.

Most of the old cloud names are retained, but the typical rain cloud is now called "nimbostratus," instead of "nimbus." Several new "species" and "varieties" of cloud are recognized.

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