

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
April 9, 1931

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 2, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

THE OZONE LAYER

Though nearly all the ozone in the earth's atmosphere is concentrated in a layer lying some 30 miles above sea level, measurements of the amount of this substance are now made regularly at many places by spectroscopic methods. Several meteorologists have recently made a special study of this lofty feature of the atmosphere, and an international conference on the subject was held two years ago in Paris.

Dr. G. M. B. Dobson, the leading British student of ozone, has just summarized the information now available in a lecture at the Royal Institution in London, a report of which is given as follows in Nature:

"The ozone has a well-marked annual variation, which is different in different parts of the world. At all places outside the tropics there is a maximum in the spring and a minimum in the autumn, the range being greatest in high latitudes and least in low latitudes. In temperate regions there are also large changes from day to day, which are closely related to the weather conditions; cyclones and anti-cyclones each having their own characteristic distribution of ozone. It is not at present understood how this relation is caused, since the ozone is much higher in the atmosphere than most of the processes affecting weather."

The ozone layer, besides apparently affecting weather, is of interest to mankind because it shields the earth from an excess of ultra-violet solar radiation, which, if the layer were not present, would probably ruin our eyes and exercise a number of other disastrous effects on both animal and plant life.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

-----  
SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D. C.