

Released upon receipt A Science Service Feature  
but intended for use  
January 4, 1934 , ? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 28, 1933.

SNOW SILENCE

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

Some traveler has said that the big S made by the Grand Canal in crossing Venice stands for "silence" ("silenzio" in Italian). The charm of that incomparable city is enhanced by the lack of noise, and so it is with the charm of a snow-covered landscape. Christopher North writes thus of the winter scene:

"Most intense is the silence. For all the streams are dumb, and the great river lies like a dead serpent in the strath. \*\*\* What blackens on that tower of snow? Crows roosting innumerable on a huge tree, but they caw not in their hunger. Neither sheep nor cattle are to be seen or heard, but they are cared for; the folds and the farmyards are full of life, and the ungathered stragglers are safe in their retreats. There has been a deep fall, and the silence, though partly of suffering, is not that of death. Therefore, to the imagination, unsaddened by the heart, the repose is beautiful."

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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