

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 9, 1934

JACK FROST AT WORK

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

"It is a delight," we read in "The English Year," by W.B. Thomas and A.K. Collet, "to watch the growing of frost. There is no better place for seeing the crystals form than in the corner seat of a railway carriage when frost is bearing. Your breath is written in letters on the window-pane almost as you breathe it. It is patterned out into a landscape of successive crystals, each quite perfect in shape and symmetry.

"But the sight is stranger on a sheet of water. Frost seizes the water in delicate rays and afterwards fits the filigree together and pieces out the pattern. As the cold falls below the freezing-point you see a sort of shiver move along an undefined line across the water, as a nerve vibrates under the skin; and then the line, the thin course of the movement, becomes a rigid mark. A few minutes later you may pick up from the water a delicate stick of crystal that fades at once in your hand."

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