

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THIS AND THAT

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Last year two aviators, in India, flying 6,900 feet above the ground, passed through a cloud that had a pronounced smell, resulting from chaff and pollen blown up from a place where men were winnowing.

"Snow-sleep" is a somnolent condition induced by walking in snow, recognized as one of the dangers of mountaineering.

"Gully-washer" is an American dialect term for a heavy rain; one that may produce gullies in the fields. "Gully-squall" is the name applied by sailors to a violent gust blowing out of mountain ravines on the Pacific coast of Central America.

Along some of the roads over the Pennine Range, one of the snowiest regions in Britain, "snow-posts" 15 feet high are placed to indicate the roadway when covered with snow. The posts are sometimes completely buried, so that they fail to serve their purpose.

Even the driest air usually contains a measurable amount of water vapor. One of the few cases on record in which observations with sensitive instruments failed to show the presence of any of this gas in natural air outdoors was reported from Angora, Turkey, a few years ago. More recently, in June, 1932, the same condition of absolute dryness was found in the air several thousand feet above San Diego, California.

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