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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SKIERS STUDY SNOW

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A good deal of knowledge about the characteristics of snowfields and the changes snow undergoes while lying on the ground has lately come to light through the studies of men who are mainly interested in snow from the standpoint of the ski-runner. The British Ski Year Book for 1932 contains a long paper by a well-known British skier, Gerald Seligman, based mainly on the researches of a German authority, Dr. W. Welzenbach, dealing with the origin and structure of the overhanging snow formations known as "cornices." In the volume for 1933 Mr. Seligman reports at length the results of his own studies of snow deposits in the Alps.

One of the interesting questions discussed in these papers is -- Why does snow "pack"? The freezing together of snow particles after they have been partially melted by pressure is doubtless the principal process involved, and it appears that in many cases the required pressure is exerted by the wind. The hooking together of branching ice crystals also helps to account for the cohesion of snow.

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