

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Nov. 3, 1934

THE RISING OF MIST

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Authority on Meteorology

The United States Weather Bureau was recently asked why clouds of mist generally rise. The following explanation was furnished:

"Such clouds are formed in two ways, (a) by the flow of cold air over relatively warm water and, (b) by the flow of comparatively warm air over a cold object, such as a snowbank.

"In the first case the relatively warm water evaporates into cold air, thus tending to supersaturation and causing condensation into fog droplets. The warm water causes vertical convection in the overlying air, which convection carries some of the fog upward. In the second case some of the vapor in the warm air is condensed to droplets by the chilling it gets from the snow, and the rising, such as there is, of the fog is due to turbulence in the air caused by obstacles over which it may be passing."

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