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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SOUND

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It is a well-known fact that aeronauts hear sounds of terrestrial origin at great altitudes, while sounds originating in aircraft have a relatively short range downward. The explanation is that the intensity of a sound, so far as it is affected by the density of the air, depends upon that of the air in which it is heard.

Camille Flammarion, who did a good deal of ballooning, tells us of the noise, "immense, colossal and indescribable" that is always to be heard 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the city of Paris. Rising from the comparatively quiet grounds of the observatory, he was astonished at the chaos of sound in which he became enveloped. As to the great distances to which sounds rise from the earth he says:

"The whistle of a steam engine may be heard at 10,000 feet; the noise of a train at 8,200; the barking of a dog at 6,000. The report of a gun attains the same height; the shouts of people are sometimes audible at 5,000 feet, as also the crowing of a cock or the tolling of a bell. At 4,500 feet the beating of a drum and the sound of a band are audible; at 3,900 feet the rumble of vehicles upon the pavement; and at 3,300 the shout of a single individual. At 2,950 feet the croaking of frogs is plainly heard; at 2,620 feet the slight noises made by the cricket."

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