

For Release
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By Major A. H. Thiessen
Science Service Meteorologist

The balance of heat in the atmosphere! Take it year in and year out, the earth gets rid of as much heat as it receives from the sun. If this were not so, it would get either progressively hotter or colder. The sun radiates to us heat in the form of short waves. Of this heat 43 per cent. is reflected away, 17 per cent. is absorbed by our atmosphere, and 40 per cent. by the earth's surface. The 17 per cent. absorbed by the atmosphere would never warm it, but the earth re-radiates that portion which it receives in longer waves. These are more readily absorbed by the atmosphere, which is additionally warmed by contact with the warmed earth.
