

For Release  
Feb. 3, 1938

By Major A. H. Thiessen  
Science Service Meteorologist

Clouds and heat! Clouds, those great sky-parasols shading the earth, cause great differences in temperature. It makes no difference in our warmth what the sun delivers to the top of the atmosphere, but what gets through to us at the earth's surface is important. About four-ninths of the sun's radiation is reflected away, and the clouds are responsible for a good deal of that. As an example of this cloud effect: Right over the Equator in the interior of Africa (but where there is considerable cloudiness) the temperature averages 82 degrees. But about 1500 miles farther north in the Sahara Desert (where there is very little cloudiness) the temperature averages 89 degrees.

Continued on Page Two