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July 6, 1938 Science Service Meteorologist

Spring of the air! Anyone can feel the "spring of the air" by pushing down on the handle of a tire pump. Robert Boyle, (the man who would not accept the presidency of the Royal Society of London because he had scruples concerning oaths) discovered the law of the "spring of the air", and found that if the pressure was doubled the volume would be halved. This law became the basis for calculating the height of the atmosphere. Boyle conceived the atmosphere as being composed of 1000 layers, each having the same quantity of air. He calculated the thickness of the layer next to the earth, and from that the next highest, and so on to the top. As he did not take into account the changing temperature his calculated value was only approximately true.
