

For Release
Aug. 29, 1938

By Major A. H. Thiessen
Science Service Meteorologist

Pure water! In 1766 Cavendish exploded a quantity of hydrogen and a quantity of oxygen and obtained water, pure water, which can not be obtained from rain or elsewhere in nature. This was the first time that the composition of water was proved. Natural water contains, beside oxygen and hydrogen, some minerals dissolved in it; and when the mineral content is high, it is known as hard water. Hard water may be very pleasant to the taste, but because soap does not readily lather in it, it is not agreeable for cleansing purposes. Many cities, besides purifying their water supply, also soften it and save their citizens many dollars in soap.
