

For Release By Major A.H. Thiessen
Oct. 31, 1938 Science Service Meteorologist

The heat equator! Hottest over the equator? Not generally. On the average all the year round, the hottest part of the earth is about 10 degrees north of the equator, and this is called the "heat equator." In summer the hottest part is farther north still, while in winter a part of the heat equator lies south of the geographical equator in South America, Africa and Australia. This heat equator is then a very irregular line moving northward in summer and southward in winter. The reasons for this are: (1) the largest land areas lie north of the equator and land absorbs heat more readily than water; (2) the southeast trade winds are stronger than the northeast and drive warm water north over the equator.
