

For Release  
Feb. 24, 1939

By Maj. A. H. Thiessen  
Science Service Meteorologist

Winter thunderstorms! Winter thunderstorms are so rare that some believe that they do not occur at all. They are much more rare in winter than in summer, and in the North some winters pass by with no record of them whatsoever. In winter as in summer, thunderstorms depend upon strong vertical convection, and since the ground is cold in winter vertical currents can not as a rule be induced by that cause. They are associated with winter cyclonic storms when a cold current flows over relatively warmer surfaces, or when warm moist air is raised up by being forced over a cold wedge of air, or when warm air is trapped beneath a body of cold air and rises by its own buoyancy.