

For Release  
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Meteors! "Shooting stars" have, of course, no effect on the weather. They do, however, give information about the atmosphere that is obtainable in no other way; that is, its approximate height and temperature. A meteor is visible by reason of its being heated to incandescence by impact with the molecules of the air. Therefore the atmosphere must extend much beyond the height observed, because it takes some time before white heat is generated. Second, scientists have deduced from meteor observation that the temperature of the air at 80 miles elevation is the same as at the surface, which is explained by the absorption of ultraviolet light by the ozone at that height. -----