

For Release
June 24, 1939

By Maj. A. H. Thiessen
Science Service Meteorologist

Evaporation and humidity! The stuff out of which clouds and afterwards rain is formed is water vapor; it also makes the air humid--stiffly humid if it exists in large quantities. Water vapor gets into the air by evaporation, which takes place from the surface of all moist substances, including ice and snow. As evaporation is going on all the time it may be asked why the air does not get saturated, that is, register 100 per cent. humidity. It is because there is an almost constant interchange between the air at the surface and at higher levels which are cooler. The rising air cools and forms clouds thus giving up some of its moisture and is thus dried to some extent before it descends.
