

For Release
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Heights of mountains! To measure the heights of mountains was a popular scientific pasttime soon after the invention of the barometer. It was then deduced that the air would get thinner and thinner with increasing height; and so the air pressure at the foot of and at the top of a mountain should be a measure of its elevation. But the law of decreasing pressure with elevation is not a simple arithmetic one, and the true (but approximate) law was not proposed until late in the 17th century. Now the law is quite complete and with observations of pressure, temperature and humidity, elevations may be very closely determined.
