

For Release  
July 15, 1939

By Maj. A. H. Thiessen  
Science Service Meteorologist

Brownian movements! This interesting phenomenon was first observed by Robert Brown, a botanist, in 1827. He observed by aid of a microscope that very small particles (pollen of plants) in water moved about in a most amazing, jerky, haphazard fashion. It was explained fifty years later that these movements are caused by the invisible molecules of water bombarding the small visible particles of pollen. This same phenomenon has been observed in the air. Smoke or minute particles of oil suspended in the atmosphere are seen jumping about the same as pollen in water, but they are bombarded by the molecules of air whose energy is derived from heat. If air were at absolute zero, these movements would cease.

~~\*\*\*\*\*~~