

For release            By Major A.H. Thiessen  
Oct. 28, 1939   Science Service Meteorologist

Storms on the sun! These are called sun spots, and were first observed with a telescope by Galileo in 1610. They resemble the earth cyclones, or temperate zone storms. Far below the sun's surface great whirling masses of gas are ascending and consequently expanding and cooling. These processes cause them to look darker than the adjacent surface. These whirling masses of gas turn, like the earth cyclones, in a counter-clockwise direction in the sun's northern hemisphere and clockwise in the southern. At times of their maximum number they cause magnetic storms on the earth, which interfere with the magnetic needle and with telegraphy, and induce brilliant displays of the northern lights or aurora borealis.

-----