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Effective atmosphere! If we designate as "effective atmosphere" that portion which has or produces effects noticeable at the earth's surface, then the top of the atmosphere is about 600 miles high. At that height auroras have been observed. If we think of radio effects, that is, of layers of air which reflect radio waves making round-the-world reception possible, then the height is about 300 miles. But if we think of that layer concerned with weather phenomena, then the effective atmosphere is only about 10 or 12 miles thick. This thickness is about one-seventieth of an inch on a twelve-inch globe.
