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Feb. 26, 1940 Science Service Meteorologist

Weathering! The effects of weathering are very noticeable in old graveyards, some of the stones of which show lettering once distinct and now hardly decipherable. Weathering is the crumbling and decay of any substance by natural agencies of which the atmosphere is very important. Stones that have remained practically unchanged for centuries in Egypt with its dry, equable climate begin to decay when brought to a wet and colder climate. The weather agencies causing decay are the mechanical and chemical action of water, wind, frost, atmospheric gases, and changes in temperature. Among these water is the most important, causing crumbling and decay by both mechanical and chemical action.
