

For release By Major A.H. Thiessen
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Gliding and meteorology! There are over 180 gliding clubs in the United States, and every active member must know some basic meteorology. They all know that in gliding the pilot takes advantage of rising currents; if not vertically ascending currents then of winds that blow upwards to some extent. The more vertical currents are called "thermals" because the air rises due to overheating of the ground beneath. The less vertical currents, called "slope currents," are caused by wind blowing upward against a slope such as the side of a mountain ridge. In long flights pilots make use of both types, or, as is frequently the case, on mountain slopes of both kinds, "thermals" and "slope currents", met with in the same locality. -----