

For release                      By Major A.H. Thiessen  
Sept. 16, 1940      Science Service Meteorologist

Mixing the air! Everybody knows that air is composed of various gases, each having a different density. But some think that if there were no wind to mix the air up, the gases would arrange themselves in layers according to their densities, the densest at the bottom. But such is not the case. Each gas, acted upon by gravity only, would arrange itself as though none of the other gases were present, that is it would be dense at the bottom and rarer with elevation. Each gas interpenetrates all the others, therefore there would be a natural mixing even without wind. The proportions would be substantially the same as at the surface; except at the highest levels the lighter gases would predominate.