

For release By Major A. H. Thiessen
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Where the rain goes! Besides carrying food material to plants in water which is largely transpired into the air, rain water is disposed of by three other processes: runoff, evaporation and downward percolation. There can be no general rule giving the relative amounts by each process, as the amounts disposed of by them vary in every locality. This variation is due to topography, soil, and the kind and amount of plant cover. Hilly land and heavy soil favor runoff, while level land and porous soil hold the water. Some crops require and use more water than others, and, of course, scanty crops require less water than lush vegetation.
