

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

How much water in snow? Freshly fallen snow contains considerable air. Sometimes snow is so light that it takes 35 inches of it to make one inch of water. Old snow, having packed from its own weight and some melting, is heavy; only about one-half of its bulk may be air. It is very difficult for the weather observer to measure snowfall. This is due principally to the wind. The observer frequently is obliged to take samples from several places and average them. Snow surveyors employ a fairly exact method: they use a steel tube which they plunge into the snow and then weigh it. The scales used gives the amount of snow in terms of inches of water. All observations of snowfall give the depth of the snow in inches and also the water equivalent.