

For release
Feb. 8, 1941

By Major A.H. Thiessen
Science Service Meteorologist

Color of snow! Since snow consists of myriads of ice crystals whose faces are nearly perfect reflectors, its color is that of the light which it reflects. A single snow crystal is more or less transparent, like a diamond, but if a diamond were ground up it would appear white also. Travelers speak of the blueness of snow on mountains, due to the purer blue of sky light at high elevations. There are cases of snow of other colors, such as red and mud-color. Mud-colored snow is caused by its falling after a dust storm and mixing with it. Red snow is due to the presence of minute one-celled plants.
