

For release  
March 21, 1941

By Major A. H. Thiessen  
Science Service Meteorologist

Musical echo! As everyone knows, an echo is simply sound reflected from some surface, such as a cliff. Sound is carried along by and through the air. Under several suitable conditions, a variety of echo results are obtained, one being the musical echo. The musical echo is caused by many reflecting surfaces near together, like the palings of a fence. When a sharp sound, such as the clap of hands, reaches the palings, the sound reflected from the first one is received first, but it is so quickly followed by the reflections from the other palings that a musical note results. The pitch depends upon the spacing of the palings.