

## Weather and Aviation

MORE than most other common forms of transportation, travel by air depends on the weather. The transport pilot must have constant reports of weather along his route, so he can avoid local storms, or keep to the ground if the stormy area is too great. For this reason the U. S. Weather Bureau and the large air transport companies have cooperated in keeping constant track of weather conditions.

Dr. W. J. Humphreys, professor of meteorological physics at the U. S. Weather Bureau, author of "Physics of the Air" and a number of popular books on the weather, will give a radio talk on the timely subject "Weather and Aviation" on Friday, August 8 at 2:45 p. m., eastern standard time. This will be one of the series of radio talks by prominent scientists arranged by Science Service.

It will be presented through the following stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System: WWNC, Asheville; WPG, Atlantic City; WCAO, Baltimore; WLBZ, Bangor, Me.; WBCM, Bay City, Mich.; WNAC, Boston; WMAK, Buffalo; WBT, Charlotte, N. C.; WDOD, Chattanooga; WKRC, Cincinnati; WAIU, Columbus; KLZ, Denver; WDAY, Fargo, N. D.; WHP, Harrisburg, Pa.; WFBM, Indianapolis; KMBC, Kansas City; KLRA, Little Rock; WREC, Memphis; WISN, Milwaukee; WCCO, Minneapolis-St. Paul; WLAC, Nashville; WABC and W2XE (short wave), New York; WTAR, Norfolk; KFJF, Oklahoma City; WCAU and W3XAU (short wave), Philadelphia; WDBJ, Roanoke, Va.; KDYL, Salt Lake City; KSCJ, Sioux City, Iowa; KFPY, Spokane, Wash.; WFBL, Syracuse, N. Y.; KVI, Takoma, Wash.; WSPD, Toledo; WIBW, Topeka, Kans.; WMAL, Washington; WMT, Waterloo, Iowa; WORC, Worcester, Mass.; and WKBN, Youngstown, Ohio.

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## Cypress Trees Below Water Line Resemble Huge Pop Bottles

HOW Hop-o'-My-Thumb might have felt if he had strayed into a modern bottling works is portrayed by Prof. Herman Kurz, of the Florida State College for Women, in telling of his experiences on the floor of a southern cypress pond that suddenly went dry and made it possible for men to walk on the bottom, twelve feet below the mark where they usually row in boats.

The great buttressed trunks of the trees stood up around them like enormous pop bottles, some of them bulging, then constricting, then flaring again at their roots exactly like the bottles of one of the most widely advertised soft drinks. Prof. Kurz tells of the discovery in the current issue of *American Forests and Forest Life*.

### Some Were Empties

Some of the "bottles" were empties; for Prof. Kurz found holes broken in them, showing that the trunks were hollow. Some of them, where the water was shallow, stood in round mats of sphagnum moss, in which many cypress seedlings were sprouting. Some had "fairy rings" of out-growths from the roots, or "knees" growing around them.

The great swellings that appear on the trunks of cypresses, increasing their underwater diameter to three or four times normal, are believed to be due to the need of the submerged roots for air. They do not develop when the trees are transplanted young to well-drained upland soils.

Ordinarily, because of prevailing

high water levels, it is not possible to study the lower parts of cypress trunks. Prof. Kurz was fortunate in finding a pond that had gone completely dry. When he returned to the place a couple of weeks later it had been refilled again, probably from some subterranean watercourse.

Botany

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930

## Overweight Danger

OVERWEIGHT plays rather an important part in diabetes and should be guarded against from early youth, Dr. Henry J. John of the Cleveland Clinic has reported to the Association for the Study of Internal Secretions. Dr. John's conclusion was drawn from statistical studies.

The weights of 528 diabetic persons were compared with the weights of a large series of insured, consequently normal, persons. The overweight of the diabetics increased with each subsequent decade, he found. The normal persons, when compared with the diabetics, showed only a slight rise in weight with each ten years of life, thus contrasting sharply with the diabetics. The overweight among the diabetics was as much as 210 per cent.

The warning against overweight should not be started with middle-aged patients in the physician's office but with children in school, where care of health should be rightfully taught, if the ideal of preventive medicine ever is to be obtained, he said.

Public Health

Science News-Letter, August 2, 1930