

below normal to ten degrees above and then went to seventeen degrees above a few days after, only to drop ten degrees below normal later in the month.

Even though the temperature for March, 1930, was 38.3°, vs. 39.2° for this year, Mr. Bradish states that department store and nursery sales were farther advanced last year. The reason is that the average temperature has been so steady this year that people have not noticed the approach of spring. Last year, after two days of very cold weather, there followed an extremely warm week so that people realized the change and spring trading was given an added impetus. Another reason for the slow start of spring purchasing this year, despite the warmth, was the great amount of precipitation.—*Charles H. Pierce.*

### THE REALM OF THE AIR <sup>1</sup>

Charles Fitzhugh Talman's new book, *The Realm of the Air*, a Book about Weather, makes the professional meteorologist proud to be a specialist in such an interesting and humanly important field, and opens the eyes of the layman to the wonders of the atmosphere. A book on meteorology could hardly be more readable. While the extraordinary and the striking facts about the atmosphere can carry themselves, the commonplaces of meteorology need the literary abilities of an author like Talman. Thus the title of the chapter on rainfall is "Sixteen million tons a second," this being the amount of rain that falls on the whole earth. And who wouldn't like to read about "Queer things that fall from the sky (and some that don't)?"

As in "Why the Weather?" the daily week-day series of notes for newspapers now entering its ninth year, Mr. Talman has spared no pains to be accurate. But perhaps he goes too far when, for fear apparently of not including all the details, he says that "the latest and most plausible hypothesis" on the formation of raindrops "is somewhat too abstruse for presentation here."

The reader is not left with word pictures alone. The volume is comprehensively and beautifully illustrated with an exceptionally well-chosen set of photographs. Here, for example, is a picture of Santo Domingo City after the worst hurricane known, the storm of September, 1930. The photograph of the "Tablecloth" cloud near Cape Town, South Africa, is almost a motion picture of this famous cloud cascade.—*Charles F. Brooks.*

<sup>1</sup> Charles Fitzhugh Talman, *The Realm of the Air, a Book About Weather*, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, Ind., 1931, 318 pp., illus. Price \$4.00.