



A new feature of SOARING to begin with the next issue will be THE POWER HOUSE, a column to be conducted by Barney Wiggin. Here glider embryos and finished sailplane pilots and all in between can bring their meteorological problems and observations for digest and discussion. This column is for all of you. Your Editor hopes it will be used and prove itself a valuable addition to our official journal.

Let's flood Barney with material for the next issue. His address is: B. L. Wiggin, U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C. P. S.—In addition to THE POWER HOUSE, we have been promised some articles on soaring meteorology from Barney and other Weather Bureau experts. The following article, taken from *Sailplane and Glider* represents the type of material we plan to use on this page.

NAMING THE Clouds

The advantage of a special language for clouds is not only that it saves time and space in describing them, but also that it makes it possible to think about them intelligibly and thus study them.

Now, there are only ten principal cloud types, or genera, and in naming them only five different words are used, singly or in combination. To get the hang of cloud language, therefore, it is only necessary to know on what principles the five words are used to make up the ten names. This is shown in the following table:

CLOUD NAMES

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Thread Clouds	Cirrus	
Sheet Clouds	With Pattern	Without Pattern
High	Cirro-Cumulus	Cirro-Stratus
Medium	Alto-Cumulus	Alto-Stratus
Low	Strato-Cumulus	Stratus
Rain Clouds	Cumulus Type	Stratus Type
	Cumulo-Nimbus	Nimbo-Stratus
Heap Clouds	Cumulus	

At the top and bottom of the table we have the two extremes; the high Cirrus, composed of isolated threads, and the low cumulus, composed of isolated lumps.

The compound names of the various flat sheets of cloud

are seen in the table to conform to a very simple scheme. The six "sheets" can be divided either into three groups according to their height, or into two groups according to their texture. The first half of each name determines the height, and the second half describes the texture. The only anomaly is Stratus, which, according to this scheme, should be "Strato-Stratus," but isn't.

Either Cumulus or Stratus may grow thick enough to produce rain, so there are two kinds of rain clouds. The only stupidity is that the *nimb*-root, meaning rain, comes in a different half of each name; this is inexcusable, as Nimbo-stratus was only invented a few years ago, and might just as well have been called "Strato-nimbus," to pair off with Cumulo-nimbus.

So there are your ten names, together with the reasons why. Needless to say, this table will not be found in any text-book on clouds. There, the types will be set out as ten disconnected names, each to be learned independently, together with official definitions amounting in all to 230 words, with several hundred words more of explanation, the total being the official description of the types. Thus the student is made to think that he must get the whole lot off by heart before he dares begin using the names at all.

Cirrus clouds are normally five or six miles up; Cumulus are roughly one mile, as their bases are at 1/2 to 1 mile and their tops at 1 to 2 miles. As to the sheet clouds, the

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