

where

$T$  is the mean temperature in ° C.,  
 $L$  is the latitude in degrees and tenths of degrees,  
 $E$  is the elevation in meters.

Predicted temperatures agree fairly well with observed temperatures as is shown at a few randomly chosen stations listed in Table II.

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SIR, *The term "ice island"*

I have read with interest the three recent letters on "Terminology for Antarctic ice features" in this *Journal* (Vol. 3, No. 30, p. 1165-68).

I agree that we now have to accept the term "ice island", with or without a qualifying adjective, for a particular type of tabular berg found in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent waters. I support Dr. Cray in favouring the form "floating ice island" for this feature. It is unfortunate that the best-known example, T-3, has gone aground, and must presumably continue to be called an "ice island" (Dr. Law's type (3)?) until it becomes a shoal.

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SIR, *Ice mounds on frozen lakes in McMurdo Sound, Antarctica*

In the course of a two-month stay in McMurdo Sound, thanks to assistance from United States expeditions, I observed on the surface of frozen lakes mounds of ice elliptical in shape and crevassed. They appear to be a common feature in this region, and it would be interesting to know how they originate.

One was seen at McMurdo Sound about 0.9 km. to the north-east of the U.S.A. Station at a height of 127 m. in the centre of a small crater lake. Further to the north-north-east of the Station, 5 or 6 mounds were found in a frozen lake at the terminus of the big glacier to the north-east, at an altitude of 140 m. At Cape Royds, 2-3 km. to the south-east of the hut, on two small elliptical lakes there was a mound on each. In Victoria Valley, at the end of the lower Victoria Glacier, there was one mound. On Lake Vida there was at least one big mound. Finally, on the McMurdo Ice Shelf below Brown Island, amid a series of moraines, a number of small frozen lakes were seen from the air, some of which contained radiating crevasses reminiscent of the design of the preceding mounds, but closer observation was not possible owing to the danger of landing.

In the little crater lake 0.9 km. to the north of the Station there was a mound about 12-15 m. in diameter, with its top about 0.5 m. above the level of the lake. The crevasses in it (Fig. 1) were 8-10 m. long, about 5 m. apart, and 10-15 cm. wide at the top. At the top of the mound the ice was in columnar crystals which, viewed from above, formed a cellular network, each crystal being about 2-3 cm. in diameter. The centre of the crystals was transparent, the margins more opaque or white (Fig. 2). Their