INTRODUCTION.

This chapter deals with **clouds**, their **formation** and **characteristics**, their relevance to aviation, and the type of **precipitation** which may be associated with them. A discussion of **precipitation** and how it is produced will then follow.

CLOUDS.

Cloud Amounts.

Meteorologists often measure **cloud amounts** in units called **OKTAS**, literally meaning **eighths of the sky**. So, if **half of the sky** were covered with cloud, the cloud amount would be reported as **4 oktas**. *Figure 10.1* represents a typical sky for which the cloud would be reported as **4 oktas**.

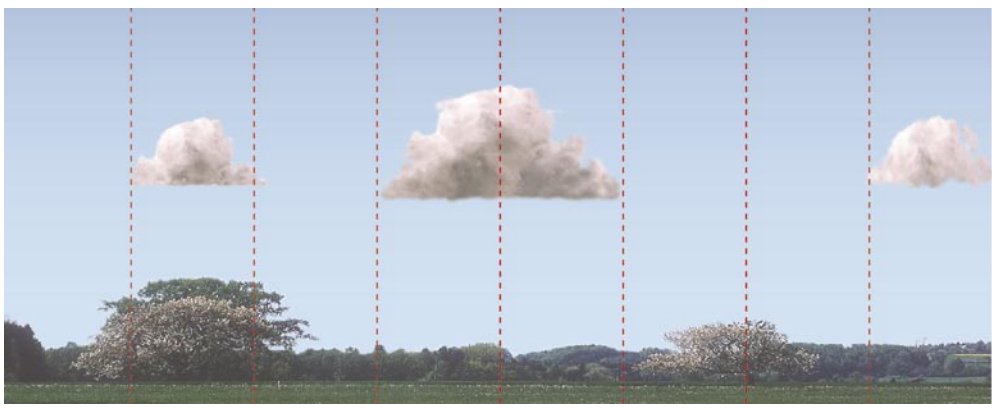

Figure 10.1 Four oktas or scattered cloud cover.

In **aviation weather reports**, the extent of **cloud cover** is normally expressed using the following words.

FEW	=	1-2 **oktas**
SCATTERED	=	3-4 **oktas**
BROKEN	=	5-7 **oktas**
OVERCAST	=	8 **oktas**

Figure 10.2 The extent of cloud cover.