

Fig. 7.7 Angle of indraught.

Buys Ballot's Law

In 1857, Buys Ballot formulated a law identifying the relationship between wind and pressure distribution. The law states that if an observer has his back to the wind, then low pressure will be to the *left* in the *northern hemisphere* and to the *right* in the *southern hemisphere*. It follows that high pressure will lie on the right in the northern and on the left in the southern hemisphere (Fig. 7.8). Under certain circumstances the number of points of the compass to the right or left of the wind in which the low pressure centre lies is important, particularly when assessing the position and movement of tropical cyclones (Chapter 9).

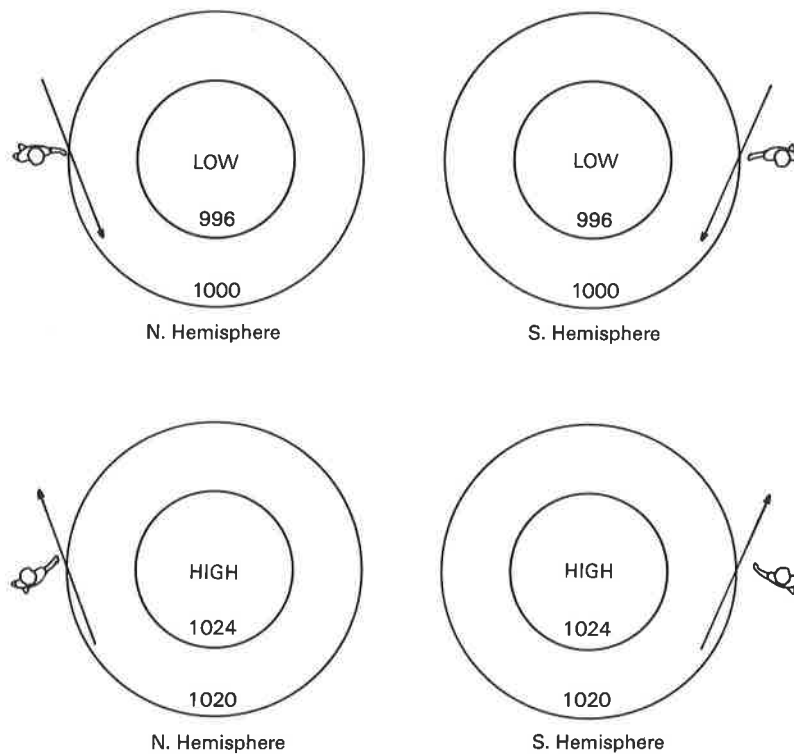


Fig. 7.8 Buys Ballot's Law.