Most Italian droughts have been associated with the apparent joining of the Siberian and Atlantic high pressure areas across Europe. When this occurs, the Atlantic depressions pass farther to the north, and only occasionally may secondaries develop in the Mediterranean, producing rain in the central and southern parts of Italy. In the present case, the northern portion received almost no rain because the few depressions which did appear on the coast of northern Africa were prevented from producing precipitation in northern Italy by the high pressure above mentioned. They did produce some rain in the southern part, however.

The author believes that, in addition to the high pressure belt across Europe, unusually low pressure in the eastern Mediterranean was a contributing factor to the drought of 1921.

The intensity of this drought may be estimated from the comparison of rainfall records at Padua and Milan, which are the longest available. A study of these records shows that periods when the rainfall was less than one-third of the normal always occurred in winter, but never with the intensity shown in the months of October to December. The two longest periods in which no rain fell occurred in 1854, from January 13 to April 19, and in 1878, from January 1 to March 22. But never before has such a drought occurred in the early months of winter.—*C. L. M.*

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C. FITZHUGH TALMAN, Meteorologist in Charge of Library.

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