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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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FOG CONTAINS LITTLE WATER

Most of us are well acquainted with the wet fog which rather quickly makes the surface of one's clothing damp. Yet it is hard to realize how little water such a wet fog may contain. In a fog so dense that one could not see beyond 100 feet so little water was present that in a block 3 by 6 by 100 feet, there was less than a seventh of a glass of liquid water - divided among 60 billion drops. Fogs usually, however, have much less water, and not enough to feel wet.

Dry fogs, such as are commonly experienced in smoky regions, especially cities on quiet autumn mornings, are made up to a large extent of smoke. So for a relatively small amount of water in such a fog, the visibility may be much restricted. Each smoke particle tends to become a nucleus; in fact, such a particle has somewhat of an affinity for water and will make a fog start forming earlier and last later than if the smoke particle were not involved in each droplet. Some of the famous London fogs are of this type, and can continue to exist till the relative humidity has fallen to 70 per cent, though clean fogs evaporate when the humidity falls below 100 per cent.

(Tomorrow: The Moon and the Weather)

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