

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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DRIVING IN THE RAIN

The difficulties of driving in bad weather are so generally recognized that wind shield wipers are required by law in some states. The wiper takes care of the outside of the glass fairly well, but in heavy or windy showers some water is likely to trickle down inside and prove troublesome. Occasionally, in a heavy rain, it may be easier to see out if the wind shield is not wiped at all, for a continuous film of water does not scatter or bend light waves so divers^ely as a number of large drops.

The worst problem for the windshield wiper is freezing rain, especially of drizzle size, or if intermixed with sleet. Hail is generally too large to stick to the glass and, therefore, does not worry the driver except for the rare occasions when it reaches such large proportions that it threatens to break the glass.

At night, rainy weather is at its worst. Headlights of other autos light up the falling rain and the drops on the windshield so that seeing is rendered much more difficult. When fog or the formation of dew on both sides of the windshield from warm air occur, vision ahead becomes still more restricted. When the air is full of wet snow, driving is particularly hazardous, not only to the motorist but to pedestrians who will not look up against snow frequently enough for the limited range of vision. During the first snow storm this autumn there were 17 auto accidents in Manchester, N.H.

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