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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 6, 1927

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ATTEMPTS TO DISPEL FOG

The problem of dispelling fog by artificial means is perennial. Years ago we heard that Sir Oliver Lodge had solved it by the use of an electrical contrivance erected on his house in Liverpool - out the city on the Mersey is still afflicted with fogs. Then the London County Council was approached with a scheme for clearing away the celebrated "London particular " by the use of explosives. The promoter of this scheme proposed to utilize a quantity of mortars which had been designed for the purpose of dispelling hailstorms in Italy but had failed to produce the desired effects. The county authorities refused to provide funds for this experiment and the project was abandoned.

Just before the world war the city of Lyons voted money for experiments in preventing the formation of fog in that city by coating the Rivers Rhone and Saone with oil. About the same period the Cottrell process of electrical precipitation, which is so successfully applied in treating industrial dusts and fumes, was tried on the fogs of the California coast, but nothing seems to have resulted. Quite recently the Naval Aircraft Factory at Philadelphia has been the scene of experiments in dissipating fog by means of electrified sprays. No tangible results have been announced.

Schemes for draining off the fog-laden air from flying fields and also for warming the air over such places and thus causing the fog to evaporate have been investigated and pronounced impracticable.

On a small scale and in favorable circumstances fog can be dispelled, but all known methods are too costly for ordinary commercial use. Thus the matter now stands

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