

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ENGLAND'S CHRISTMAS SNOWSTORM

That England had an "old-fashioned" Christmas season in the matter of snow was duly reported in press dispatches. More definite information is now at hand from meteorological sources. C.K.M. Douglas says in the Meteorological Magazine (London):

"On Christmas day there was snow in the Midlands but continuous rain over southern England. Toward evening the cold air spread southward and the rain turned to snow, which fell heavily throughout the night over nearly the whole of southern England, and throughout Boxing Day and the following night in the southeastern counties.

"The mean depth of the snow exceeded a foot on the higher ground over a large area, but near sea level there was considerably less, much of it having melted. At some places on the east and southeast coasts there was no snow lying. The snow was of the soft clinging type and broke down numerous overhead wires and branches of trees wherever there was shelter from the wind. In spite of this there was very severe drifting, with serious interruption of rail and road communication. ... Drifts as deep as 20 feet were reported from Salisbury Plain, while broad drifts of closely packed snow of about 6 feet in depth were very numerous. Some villages were isolated for days, and many of the main roads were blocked till the New Year."

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