

Released on receipt
but intended for use
February 27, 1928

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed February 20, 1928

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PROFITS IN AIR PURIFICATION

The pollution of the atmosphere by dust and fumes is a serious problem in many industrial districts. That the abatement of the nuisance can in some cases be made directly profitable to the industries concerned is pointed out by Dr. P.H. Bryce in a recent article. He says:

"I remember the account of the first steps taken to protect the public as well as the vegetation around the industrial towns of England 55 years ago, when the salt and alkali works were located there. Dr. Angus Smith, the official chemist, found that an excessive amount of chlorine fumes was being allowed to escape from the works, and so, after experimenting, ordered the manufacturers to install a series of lead-lined chambers in which trays of quick-lime were placed. The chlorine fumes then were passed through these in succession until, at the exit, the amount of chlorine was reduced to a minimum. The manufacturers at first strongly protested against the cost of installation, but soon found they had produced a new by-product, bleaching-powder, which is today universal in its applications and makes a steady profit for them."

The fumes from smelters in the mining regions of the western United States have been a cause of endless complaint, and in many places the installations provided for preventing this nuisance have proved to be a profitable means of recovering sulphur, arsenic, etc.

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