

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION IN GREAT BRITAIN

Last year 61 soot-gauges were in use in the towns of England and Scotland for measuring the pollution of the atmosphere. The reports of such measurements have been published annually for some years. Based on these reports the towns are classified into five groups. Those having the dirtiest atmosphere are placed in the first group, but if the report for the following year indicates an improvement in atmospheric conditions above a certain figure, they are placed in the second or third group. A spirit of rivalry between towns is thus developed and efforts to secure a purer atmosphere are encouraged.

For the year ending March 31, 1927, there were six towns in the first group. The records made at these places showed the following annual amounts of sootfall in tons per square mile:

Burnley	868
St. Helens	572
Liverpool	560
Rochdale	546
Wakefield	534
Newcastle-on-Tyne	523

London was in the third group, with only 297 tons per square mile; the average measurement from 8 gauges in different parts of the London area.

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