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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 15, 1929

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GLAZE AND RIME

In winter, when the temperature is only a little below freezing, a steady downpour of rain frequently coats all exposed objects with smooth, transparent ice. This deposit, the prevalence of which on a general scale constitutes an "ice storm", is called "glaze" by American meteorologists, but to the public at large and to the engineering profession it is known usually as "sleet". The latter word has two other meanings. It is applied in Great Britain and sometimes in America to a mixture of snow and rain. The United States Weather Bureau applies it only to small pellets or irregular bits of clear ice -- frozen raindrops -- that sometimes fall in cold weather. Sleet, in this sense of the term, may fall at the same time with unfrozen raindrops, and the latter may form a coating of glaze. Thus a sleet storm and a glaze storm may be in progress together, or one may change to the other.

Glaze should not be confounded with the rough or feathery deposits of opaque ice formed in cold weather by drifting fog. This kind of ice, the most remarkable examples of which are seen on mountains and in the polar regions, is now known as "rime". Since it is built up from the fog particles drifted by the wind, it grows most rapidly or exclusively on the windward side of objects.

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