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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology.

DUSTY CITY AIR

Chicago is by no means the dustiest or smokiest city in the United States, but the average dustfall or sootfall for the city as a whole, according to recent measurements, reaches the impressive amount of 125 tons per square mile per month. The average fall in the Loop District is 229 tons per square mile per month, with a maximum in one month of 460 tons.

Utilizing data collected by O.W. Armspach as to the rate of fall of various kinds of dust, Dr. Arnold H. Kegel, Chicago's commissioner of health, concludes that the average amount of dust present at any one time in the atmosphere of the Loop District is .01 ounce per cubic foot of air. An adult man takes into his lungs about 20 cubic feet of air per hour, or 480 cubic feet in 24 hours. All the dust is retained in his respiratory tract, for the lungs act as a perfect filter and exhaled air is free from dust.

Hence, says Dr. Kegel, a dweller in the district mentioned takes from the air into his system every day about .065 ounce of dust, and in a year he inhales the surprising total of 23.4 ounces, or nearly a pound and a half.

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