A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ARTIFICIAL FOG DISPERSAL

The discovery of a practical method, not prohibitively expensive, of dispelling fog would be a boon to aeronauts, who are more seriously handicapped by this weather element than by any other. Much research has been devoted to finding such a method, but the results thus far are not encouraging. According to the U. S. National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, "there is very little promise of a commercial method of clearing away fog, although it is possible to clear away enough for certain military exigencies where the question of cost is not of primary importance."

The methods to which attention has chiefly been given are: First, to sprinkle a quantity of hygroscopic material through the fog; second, to scatter electrified sand or other electrified particles through the fog from airplanes; and, third, to heat the air sufficiently to cause the fog to evaporate.

The electrical method assumes that the fog particles when suitably electrified will coalesce to form raindrops and thus fall rapidly to the ground, but uncertainty still prevails on this point and there is need of laboratory work to ascertain the facts.

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