

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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DROUGHT EFFECTS

Despite recent rains in parts of the United States affected by the great drought of last year and the beginning of this year, much anxiety still prevails in many districts about the water-supply. The Engineering News-Record has just undertaken a survey of the situation and has published some preliminary results for the state of Illinois. It appears that in the southern part of that state there are fifteen communities whose public water supplies have been sufficiently depleted to cause their managements to inaugurate or plan emergency measures. In some cases it has become necessary to transport water from other towns.

An indication of conditions in some of the smaller communities is furnished by the following letter received last month by the Sanitary Engineering Division of the State Board of Health:

"The farmers in this vicinity were so eager to collect as much as possible of the rain that has fallen in the last day or so that they turned roof drainage into their cisterns without allowing sufficient time for the roof surfaces to be washed off. As a result many of the cisterns now hold water containing large quantities of soot and dirt. Is there any chemical we can add to the water that will clear it up without adding to its hardness?"

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