

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
December 8, 1931

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 1, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

THE WORK OF A CLOUDBURST

I once wrote in these notes of the so-called "cloudburst cavities" or "cloudburst scars" that bear witness to the terrific force with which rain water sometimes comes down on small areas of the earth's surface; effects compared by observers to those of the "giant" used in hydraulic mining.

On June 18, 1930, a series of cloudbursts occurred in a district of the Pennine Hills known as Knipe Moor, in Westmorland, England, with results described by F. Hudleston, who visited the locality four months after the event. The downpour had produced five conspicuous scars, each of which removed a layer of peat varying from four to ten feet in thickness, lying over clay. The largest covered four acres, another two acres. Both of these, says Mr. Hudleston, "seem to have been dug out by some spout of water which traveled from south to north, both places being a long way from the edge of the high-lying ground." Distant eye-witnesses of the cloudburst describe the water as falling in a solid mass.

The peat moss and fiber from one of the scars went down the Eden River as a black, filthy solution, which choked thousands of trout as far distant as sixteen miles from the scene of the cloudburst and spread a deposit of mud over the banks of the stream thirty miles from the same place.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.