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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SMOKE IN NEW YORK AIR

In New York City measurements of atmospheric pollution are made regularly at the Central Park Observatory, operated by the Weather Bureau, by means of an English instrument that makes automatic records at intervals of fifteen minutes throughout the day and night. Each record consists of a round smudge on the border of a revolving disk of white blotting paper, through which a definite amount of air is drawn. The degree of pollution is determined by comparing the smudges with a scale of standard shades. Concerning the results of these measurements David R. Morris, in charge of the observatory, says:

"The greatest smoke, it is found, occurs between the hours of seven and nine in the morning, when factory stokers and apartment house firemen start up their furnaces, and when the wind, on the whole, is comparatively light. The least smoke is detected between one and three in the afternoon, when strong convectional currents of wind are common. The tests show that the amount of smoke depend to a great extent upon the force and direction of the winds."

When the winds are high there is little smoke, while in calm weather the smoke hangs over the city in a dense pall. For a given strength of wind, the smoke is naturally heaviest when the winds blow from the west and southwest; the direction in which the big New Jersey factories lie. Last year February and June were the dirtiest months -- the latter on account of light winds.

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