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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MEASURING AIR POLLUTION

The measurement of atmospheric pollution is carried on regularly in New York City, by methods recently described in these notes, and also in a few other American cities, but there is no national organization of such measurements in the United States corresponding to the one that has been in existence for several years in Great Britain under the direction of what is now called the Atmospheric Pollution Research Committee, attached to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The British measurements are made mainly with the aid of three instruments, all designed by Dr. J. S. Owens.

"The first," says a recent article in Nature, "known as the deposit gauge, is designed for the purpose of measuring the total amount of impurity deposited on a given area. It consists essentially of a rain-gauge, in which the ordinary copper collecting funnel is replaced by a large glass receiver. The rain, with the impurity, is collected for a definite period -- usually a calendar month -- and then analyzed. The second and third instruments are, respectively, the automatic air-filter and the jet dust-counter. The former gives a semi-continuous record of the concentration of suspended impurity in the atmosphere. The latter provides a means of determining the number of solid particles in a given volume of air and ascertaining the physical nature of the individual particles."

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