

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed July 7, 1932.

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MORE WEATHER FACTS

The fastest shower ever measured occurred at Opid's Camp, in the mountains of California, on April 5, 1926. Of two self-recording rain-gauges, standing side by side at this place, one registered 1.03 inches and the other 0.92 inches in one minute. A rainfall of an inch in one hour is considered a heavy shower!

The drops of water of which clouds and fog are composed are so small that millions of them must be combined to form an ordinary raindrop.

Smudge fires were used to protect gardens from frost by the ancient Romans; also by the Peruvian Indians in pre-Columbian times.

The costliest stroke of lightning on record was the one that started a series of explosions at the United States Naval Ammunition Depot, Lake Denmark, N.J., July 10, 1926. The damage, which extended to many surrounding towns and villages, was estimated at \$93,000,000 and 31 lives were lost.

The "tempestuous wind called Euroclydon," mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as the cause of St. Paul's shipwreck on the island of Malta, is now known as the "grogale," and is still dreaded by Mediterranean sailors. In August, 1910, a British frigate was driven on the rocks by one of these storms at the same spot where the wreck mentioned in the Bible is supposed to have occurred.

The popular idea that the sun is "drawing water" when diverging beams extend downward from it toward the horizon is erroneous. The beams are the solar rays made visible by dust or watery haze, and the intervening shadows are those of clouds.

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