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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LONDON'S DENSE FOGS

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The world-wide renown of London's fogs is probably due, in a considerable measure, to the descriptions of them found in Dickens' novels, written between 1837 and 1870. It appears, however, that the same descriptions have created a somewhat exaggerated idea as to the frequency of dense fogs in the world's metropolis. Foggy weather is very prevalent there in the cold season, but the fogs that turn day into night numbered only two or three a year, on an average, up to about 1830, so far as can be judged from available records.

From that time on the frequency of dense fogs gradually increased. By the end of the century the average was nine a year. In recent times, owing to the partial substitution of gas and electricity for raw coal in heating and cooking, the foginess of London has shown a tendency to decrease.

London's dense fogs are commonest in November. During a period of 106 years there were 125 of them in that month.

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