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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 14, 1934

LONDON FOGS TODAY

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Authority on Meteorology

The present winter has given proof of the fact that London fogs can still be as dense and murky as they were a generation or more ago. The great fog of New Year's Day, in which houses were invisible across an ordinary street, was much like the old-fashioned "London particular." The main difference, according to a description in the Meteorological Magazine, was that it was not yellow in color and evidently did not contain so much of the choking sulfurous products of burning coal that characterized the typical fog of former years. It was densest and darkest near the ground and in Kingsway there was little fog above a height of 45 feet.

This fog was, however, exceptional. In most cases of recent years, says the article mentioned, when fog was dense near the ground in the suburbs, central London has had a "high fog," prevailing at a height of a thousand feet or so, with clear air below it. This, we are told, is attributable mainly to the relatively high temperature of the air in central London, due largely, it is supposed, to the prevalence of central heating in the numerous large buildings recently erected; coupled with the cleaner streets and the greater areas now covered with waterproofed surfaces. In other words, the warmth and dryness of the lower air tend to check fog formation.

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