

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
February 28, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed February 21, 1934

LOCALIZED SHOWERS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

Some interesting cases of sharply localized rainfall are quoted in the current Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. In England, a few years ago, heavy rain fell on a strip of land 30 feet wide and 3 miles long, between Chatham and Cobham, but nowhere else in the neighborhood. The Greensboro (N.C.) News of June 27, 1932, records:

"A freak rain wet one side of a paved road for half a mile or more, leaving the other side dry. The difference between the wet and dry conditions of the two shoulders was striking. One wheel of an auto could go in the wet while the other was dry."

An elaborate study of localized showers was made some years ago in Moscow by T.J. Kassatine, with the aid of a large corps of observers stationed at different points throughout the city. Maps were published showing the areas over which rain was falling at a particular moment of time, and in some of these maps the rainfall patterns are very intricate. One of them, representing conditions at 5:20 p.m., July 25, 1913, during the passage of a violent thunderstorm, shows about a dozen tapering bands of rain, from a few to several miles long and mostly averaging less than half a mile wide, stretching from northeast to southwest part way across the city. These bands are reported to have moved parallel to one another.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.