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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BRITISH CLIMATE

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

The British Isles are proverbially moist. Here is a rhyme, current in the southwest of England, which expresses their popular reputation in this respect:

"The south wind always brings wet weather,  
The north wind wet and cold together;  
The west wind always brings us rain;  
The east wind blows it back again;  
If the sun in red should set,  
The next day surely will be wet;  
If the sun should set in gray,  
The next will be a rainy day."

As a matter of fact the total annual rainfall of these islands does not differ much from the average for the eastern United States. The general rainfall of England is about 33 inches; Scotland, 50 inches; and Ireland, 43 inches.

Compare Washington, D.C., 42 inches; New York City, 43 inches; Boston, 40 inches.

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