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October 27, 1934

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed October 20, 1934

POLLEN IN DUST STORMS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

Apropos of the large amount of pollen carried by the dust storms of last summer in the United States and Canada, K. Biswas, curator of the Herbarium, Royal Botanical Gardens, Calcutta, has written to the English journal Nature, calling attention to the "Puspa-bristi" (rain of flowers) frequently noticed in India. During late February and March, which is the flowering period of a large number of trees in the plains and terai (belt of marsh and jungle) of the eastern Himalayas, the pollen, says Mr. Biswas, seems often to be carried up to higher levels in the hot air and then distributed over a wide area by dust storms. It settles later with dew or rain in liquid drops, which, when they dry upon the foliage of plants, leave residues of pollen grains.

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