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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed March 1, 1935

SKY GLOWS OVER CITIES

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Authority on Meteorology

When the sky over a large city is overcast at night with lofty clouds and when the horizontal visibility is good, the glow of the city lights may sometimes be seen for long distances. A case of this kind is reported by David W. Rosebrugh in the Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He spent an evening last December at Sharon, Conn., at a house situated on a low plateau about 1,000 feet above sea level, with low mountains in many directions rising about 1,000 feet higher. The sky was covered with cirrus haze and in part by cirrus clouds.

"As I looked to the southward," he writes, "I was able to see the glow of New York City in the sky at an elevation of perhaps three degrees above the horizon. I find by the map that this was a distance of upwards of 80 miles. Apparently the under side of the clouds at a height of some five miles in the air was illuminated by the lights of the city and it was clear enough under the clouds to see this glow for 80 miles.

"At this time I did not notice the glow of any other city in the sky. However about 10 p.m. the glow of New York had disappeared but glows were visible over the cities of Poughkeepsie, some 27 miles to the west; Hudson, N. Y., some 31 miles to the northwest, and Hartford about 45 miles to the east."

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