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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

CLEANER AIR IN BRITAIN

Thanks to vigorous smoke abatement measures, sponsored by various British municipalities, the air of towns in the United Kingdom grows cleaner year by year. This statement can be made with confidence because Great Britain, in favorable contrast to most other countries, has for many years maintained regular measurements of atmospheric pollution in numerous towns. The measurements relate to sootfall and are made with special gauges, numbering from one to several in each town. At present they are made in 28 English and Scottish towns; one of which, Loughborough, has 12 gauges, while London has 11. Of these 28 towns eight now show an annual sootfall of less than 200 tons per square mile, as compared with only three a few years ago. The heaviest sootfall for the year ending March 31, 1930, was 531 tons per square mile at Burnley. London had only 254 tons per square mile. The figures show that atmospheric pollution has been reduced by a third in the Birmingham area and by one-sixth in London in the last ten years.

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21st and Constitution Ave.  
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