

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RAINWATER.

A scheme for systematic chemical analysis of rain water is being implemented in India. According to this scheme, rain water will be collected during the monsoon months of June to September at the Meteorological Observatories at Bombay, Poona, Ahmedabad, Jodhpur, Delhi, Allahabad, Calcutta, Nagpur, Vizagapatam, Hakimpet, Madras and Bangalore in neutral glass bottles and analysed at the Central Chemical Laboratory at the Alipore Test House, with a view to determine the amount of chlorine, free ammonia, albuminoid ammonia, sulphuric anhydrides and nitrogen in the form of nitrates and nitrites.

Apart from the scientific interest, the results obtained from such analysis will be useful for practical purposes. A knowledge of the impurities in rain water will help us to assess how far the fertility of the soil is increased by it due to the oxides it contains reacting with the soluble salts of the soil and thus forming valuable fertilizers. These impurities which are nothing but the indelible markings of some of the physical processes taking place in the atmosphere, may lead to a better understanding of these processes.