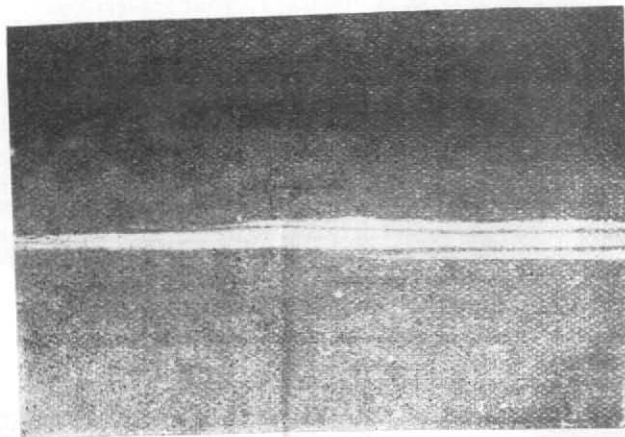


MAN-MADE CIRRUS ?

R. M. Poulter in his note under the above heading in "Weather" August, 1948 and C. J. M. Aanensen in his letter to the Editor "Weather" April, 1949 have given interesting accounts of cirrus formation in the 'clear lane' started by aircraft flying in a layer of thin altocumulus.

On 20th April, 1942, I had a rare opportunity of photographing artificial cirrus clouds formed at very high altitudes in an otherwise clear sky at Karachi. At about 1000 hrs. (Local Time) four aircraft flying in formation in a perfectly clear sky set up the condensation trails which appeared in a great circle across the sky. (Vide photographs). The cirrus band, which consisted of four distinct parallel streaks, lasted for more than an hour before dissolving. It was practically stationary, and no iridescence was noticeable.



January, 1950]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The crews, who were U. S. Army personnel, were contacted shortly afterwards, and they were good enough to supply the following particulars :—

Type of aircraft :—Flying Fortress B 17 E Boeing 299.

Altitude :—Approximately 30,000 ft.

They could not say definitely whether the clouds were formed by the action of the propellers or by condensation around nuclei provided by the exhaust gas, though they were inclined to think that the former was more probable.

Observatory,

Madras.

June 17, 1949.

V. Ganeshan,

