

Volcanoes often give rise to local contaminations. Sometimes the dust from eruptions can travel long distances. A well known example is the dust rain which occurred in northern Europe in 1875 when the volcano Askja on Iceland was in action. The distribution of ash and dust from this occasion has been reviewed by THORARINSSON (285).

In the Mediterranean coloured rain may occur. This is due to solid particles from arid regions. By the action of wind the particles are brought up into the air and can be carried long distances before they are precipitated by rain. MENIER (210) found on one occasion in Palermo in Italy that a sample of such dust contained 59.14 per cent sand, 23.91 per cent  $\text{CaCO}_3$  and 8.58 per cent clay. He suggested as origin the Sahara Desert.

A real dustrain occurred in 1892 in May

(NORDENSKIÖLD, 229, 230), the rain falling over parts of Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. It was brought down in appreciable quantities in a comparatively narrow strip from northwestern Germany to Finland. The dust consisted mainly of mineral fragments.

The radioactivity of precipitation has also been investigated. It is reported (77) that snow has an induced radioactivity which disappears after a couple of hours.

### Erratum

In part I of this paper, page 231, the eleventh row below the subheading no. 8 stands " $\text{cm}^3$ ". Should read " $\text{cm}^2$ ".

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