

avoid excessive deposits in the condensers. An additional amount of make-up water must be added to replace windage, or *drift loss*. This additional amount of water varies from 0.1 to 3 per cent of the quantity of water being circulated, this percentage depending upon the type of equipment and the wind velocity.

### Winter Freezing

If atmospheric water cooling equipment is operated in freezing weather, the water may be cooled below freezing temperature so ice forms and collects until its weight causes damage. To obviate freezing during continued operation, the efficiency of the apparatus may be lowered. This is done on the spray pond and the spray cooling tower by reducing the quantity of water fed to the apparatus, thereby lowering the pressure at the nozzles and increasing the size of the drops produced. On the deck tower the upper system may be shut off and a secondary distribution system put in service midway down the height of the tower. The water will be kept above freezing because it will have shorter contact with the air. The mechanical draft tower can be protected by reducing the air flow through the tower, by stopping or reducing the speed of the fans, or by partially closing dampers.

If the system is operated intermittently in freezing weather, water in the basin may freeze and the expansion of the ice may do harm. Freezing during intermittent operation can be prevented only by draining the water basin when it is out of service. On small roof installations, a tank large enough to hold all the water in the system is often installed inside the building and the basin is drained into this by gravity, the pump suction being taken from this inside tank.

A comparison of various types of water cooling equipment is given in Table 5.

## Chapter 27

# AIR POLLUTION

*Classification of Air Impurities, Dust Concentrations, Air Pollution and Health, Occlusion of Solar Radiation, Smoke and Air Pollution Abatement, Dust and Cinders, Nature's Dust Catcher*

THE particulate impurities which contribute to atmospheric pollution include carbon from the combustion of fuels, particles of earth, sand, ash, rubber tires, leather, animal excretion, stone, wood, rust, paper, threads of cotton, wool, and silks, bits of animal and vegetable matter, and pollen. Microscopic examination of the impurities in city air shows that a large percentage of the particles are carbon.

## CLASSIFICATION OF AIR IMPURITIES

The most conspicuous sources of atmospheric pollution may be classified in various ways, as dusts, fumes and smoke. In Fig. 1, the classification is by particle size, but recent practice favors differentiation by method of formation. Thus, *dusts* are composed of particles produced by disintegration of larger material, as by crushing or grinding, whereas *fumes* are produced by condensation, and *smoke* consists of the finer carbon particles resulting from incomplete combustion. Similarly, *mists* are formed by the breaking up of liquids and *fogs* by condensation of vapors. There is as yet, however, no general agreement on these terms.

Dusts tend to settle without agglomeration, fumes to aggregate and smoke to diffuse. Particles which approach the common bacteria in size—from 1 to 10 microns—are difficult to remove from air and are apt to remain in suspension unless they can be agglomerated by artificial means. The term *fly-ash* is usually applied to the microscopic glassy spheres which form the principal solid constituent of the effluent gases from powdered-coal fired furnaces. Cinders denote the larger solid constituents which may be entrained by furnace gases.

Particles larger than 10 microns are unlikely to remain suspended in air currents of moderate strength. Only violent air motion will sustain them in air long enough for them to be breathed. This means that, in hygienic problems, the engineer is concerned mostly with suspensions of particles comparable to the common bacteria in size. A notable exception to this size limitation is the common hay-fever producing pollen such as that from rag-weed. Pollen grains may be anything from fragments 15 microns in diameter to whole pollens 25 microns or more in size.