

ported to him. The British stations employed in this service are at Croydon, Lympne and Pulham. When position is desired, the observations of the three stations are collected at Croydon and plotted on a chart, the results being transmitted to the pilot. The whole operation takes only about a minute, and the reported location is seldom in error as much as two miles.

Other aids to flying in fog or clouds are now being tested in England, and a complete solution of the problem seems to be at hand. There are automatic steering devices that keep the aircraft to its proper course in the air, turn-indicators to supplement the unreliable compass, and fog-piercing neon lights at landing fields. Lastly, it is proposed to guide the aircraft to a landing field by means of a "leader cable," similar in operation to the one that was installed in New York harbor a few years ago for the benefit of shipping. The cable will be charged with an alternating current. A signal on the pilot's instrument board will show him when he is flying over the cable and parallel to it, and will also indicate his height above the ground.—*C. Fitzhugh Talman, in Why the Weather? a Science Service feature.*

## NOTES

### New Uses for Rain Gauges

Ingenious bootleggers on the island of Oahu have been playing havoc with the records of the Weather Bureau and the territorial hydrographic office by stealing the metal rain gauges on some of the remote peaks of the Koolau and Waianae mountain ranges for use as moonshine stills.

The gauges are of yellow metal resembling copper, but containing about 30 per cent zinc. Government chemists say that the poison made in one of them is not apt to contaminate a large amount of liquor.—*Orlando Sentinel.*

### Scientists Regarded as Makers of Rain

The *Miami Herald* reports that the Hottentot tribesmen around Mount Brukkaros, Southwest Africa, consider the American solar observers sent out by the Smithsonian Institution on a grant from the National Geographic Society to be rainmakers. This is an interesting contrast to the natives of certain parts of the United States who consider rainmakers to be scientists. In both cases the result is the same. No rain comes.