

It has been experimentally determined that before any harmful physiological effect can be demonstrated, the oxygen must be reduced to 14% and the carbon dioxide increased to 2.4%. There you have it.

Let's try another theory, that of "crowd poison" this time. According to this theory there is a poison known as anthropotoxin given off by the lungs and body surface. The odor of foul air was supposed to be the index of the poison in the air.

In order to prove this theory the scientist went so far as to condense an amount of expired air, and fed the resulting solid and liquid to some innocent little guinea pigs. They didn't seem to thrive on this second-hand-air hash. The ill effects produced were at once attributed to the presence of anthropotoxin. And now comes the great anticlimax:—"Later experiments show the technique of this experiment to be false and without grounding"—and probably the poor little sick guinea pigs never so much as got an apology.

The truth of the matter is that the chemist has had to "pass the buck" along to his fellow scientists in the physics laboratory; the oxygen, carbon dioxide, and toxin content theory would seem to hold good.

The physicist hit upon the brainy idea of "canning up" a few individuals in an air-tight box, and gave each one a tube thru which he might breathe pure air from the outside. The prisoners still complained about the bad air and felt the usual depressing symptoms.

Concurrently with the above test, the experimenter stationed several other persons outside this air-tight cage with tubes leading into it thru which they drew their breath. After "smoking" this large pipe with several individuals in the bowl for several hours, the smokers felt none the worse for it.

We can now safely conclude that the effects of bad air are dependent upon its temperature and humidity. The body is continually producing more heat than is necessary for maintaining the normal temperature as a result of muscular, nervous, and glandular activity. This heat is disposed of