the highest was 93°, at Fort Simcoe on the 28th, and the lowest, 20°, at Cascade Tunnel on the 3d. This was the coolest May on record. The average precipitation was 3.21, or 0.62 above normal; the greatest monthly amount 7.74, occurred at Ashford, and the least, 0.53, at Kennewick.

West Virginia.—The mean temperature was 68.1°, or about 6.0° above normal; the highest was 95°, at Point Pleasant on the 10th and at Spencer on the 11th, and the lowest, 33°, at Beckly (Raleigh) on the 4th. This was the warmest May on record. The average precipitation was 3.01, or about 0.75 below normal; the greatest monthly amount, 5.92, occurred at Fairmont, and the least, 0.65, at Beckly.

Wisconsin.—The mean temperature was 62.9°, or about 6.0° above normal; the highest was 93°, at Butternut and Prairie du Chien on the 6th, and the lowest, 29°, at Florence on the 20th. Heavy frosts occurred at several northern stations on the 31st. The average precipitation was 5.00, being slightly below normal in the southeastern counties and much above normal in the Grand River Valley; the greatest monthly amount, 9.35, occurred at West Bend, and the least, 2.44, at Delevan.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

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By Dr. J. H. McCARTY, Librarian Weather Bureau.

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THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCES OF HURRICANES AND THE CONDITIONS OF SAFETY AND DANGER.

Extracts from communication by GEN. E. P. ALEXANDER, of Georgetown, S. C. (dated May 29, 1896).

It is the purport of this article to set forth some of the practical conclusions and results of a study of the destructive forces of the tropical hurricanes which sometimes assail our Atlantic and Gulf coasts in the months of August, September, and October. The study was suggested by personal experiences and observations on several occasions, but more particularly in the storm of August 27, 1893, which destroyed over 2,000 lives and perhaps $1,000,000 worth of property. Newspapers and magazines for months afterward teemed with accounts of the havoc wrought, and of the noble charities for the relief of the desolated communities to which the occasion gave rise. But the popular ideas of the dangerous forces of the hurricane as given by the published accounts are exceedingly vague and indefinite, exaggerated in some respects, and underestimated in others. One magazine, for instance, stated that many persons were killed by "sheer pressure and fury of the wind, not a bruise being found on their bodies." Such a statement is merely absurd. But to the ignorant it suggests mysterious and universal destruction, against which no precautions are of any avail.

In every hurricane there are many individuals who escape and many structures that withstand it. An intelligent study of the conditions surrounding these individuals and buildings will give us a fair measure of the force of the wind and waves and will suggest the most effective means of protection. Briefly, it may be said that the dangerous elements are so limited and precautionary measures are so simple and easy,