

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
Secretary, American Meteorological Society  
discusses:

THREE RECENT TROPICAL CYCLONES

Though the tropical cyclone is best known through the bad reputation of the West Indian hurricane and the typhoon, there are numerous tropical cyclones of much less destructive intensity. Three of these entered the eastern United States and as two storms crossed into Canada, October 16-19, 1923. After a number of days of low pressure in the Gulf of Mexico a tropical cyclone of nearly hurricane intensity was reported by two vessels not far south of Louisiana. The storm reached the coast during the night of October 15-16, and moved northward. Another one arrived early on the 17th. By the evening of the 19th the remains of this pair were somewhere in Canada south of Hudson Bay. These storms readily followed a lane of warm, moist air which during several days before had spread from the Gulf to Canada.

The other storm appearing suddenly from the direction of Bermuda brought rain to New England early on the 18th, before the Weather Bureau could forecast it. The only warning of its approach was the slow rise of high clouds far to the southeast in an otherwise cloudless sky during the 17th, and a northeast wind that did not die at nightfall. A boisterous wind, magnificent festooned clouds, then a heavy shower, and the storm had arrived. Drizzle and rain continued in southern New England with the northeast wind for nearly 24 hours. The weather became muggy as the center approached. Then followed a squally and showery southwest wind for 24 hours more. A tropical storm had passed across New England. It had in moderate form the characteristics of its dreaded relative, the West Indian hurricane. On account of a restricted supply of moisture it was too weak to make more than about one inch of rain. The Gulf storms operated with air more abundantly supplied with water vapor and their latent energy was much stronger: the wind rose to 60 miles an hour, and the rainfall totalled nearly 10 inches at Pensacola, Fla.

-----  
(Tomorrow: Making the Weather Map.)  
All rights reserved by Science Service.  
Science Service,  
1115 Conn.Ave., Washington, D.C.