

Sept. 9

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HURRICANES LATE

A Jamaica saying runs:

June too soon,  
July stand by,  
August look out you must,  
September remember,  
October all over.

August and September are usually the height of the West Indian hurricane season. June, however, is not invariably too soon for these storms, and they are not always all over by October.

This year, like last, the hurricane season was late in arriving. The first tropical storms of importance in 1923 did not occur till late in September, and though there were a few in the following several weeks, none reached the American coasts with hurricane strength. Up to the middle of August, 1924, there had been no marked tropical cyclone shown this summer on American weather maps. August 17 the first one appeared, but so far off the north Atlantic coast as not to affect the shore. The next day a tropical disturbance of moderate intensity was noted over the ocean north of Porto Rico. It took a northwesterly course for three days, then, practically stopped, its center apparently just north of the Bahamas, for three days more, and, finally, Aug. 25, took a sudden spurt north-northeastwards up our Atlantic coast.

Our late start of tropical disturbances seems to have been associated, as it was last year, with atmospheric pressures above normal in the tropical North Atlantic. The cause of any such high pressures is a matter for conjecture, as is also the relation of high pressure to the lack of hurricanes. However, some observations of surface temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico up to the middle of July this summer showed the water to be cooler than usual, a circumstance that would favor cooler, drier, and, therefore, denser air, and higher pressure - all adverse to storm formation.

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(Tomorrow: Dry Summer in Southwest)  
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