

Sept. 29.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks,
of Clark University.

WHY THERE ARE HURRICANES

The West Indian hurricanes, that greatly disturb the regular round of the daily weather in portions of the tropics and occasionally raise havoc along our coasts, usually come across the Atlantic from near the Cape Verde Islands, or else develop over the western third of the Caribbean Sea. The hurricanes of August and the first half of September generally come from the eastern side of the Atlantic and are the great storms, while those of the last half of September and the first half of October arise in the western Caribbean, and are not often of such intensity.

These tropical storms originate at a time of year when, and in locations where, the ocean temperatures are high, and, therefore, the air is warm and humid. Furthermore, the centers of origin are areas where there is little wind, but near which are winds differing in direction. The warm moist air is crowded up and set into a whirling motion by these inflowing winds. The enormous amount of latent heat held in the large quantities of water vapor serves as the primary source of energy for the storm, once the start is made. The stronger the whirl of the wind, the greater the area of the storm, and the lower the central pressure becomes, till in a well developed storm the winds are whirling about the center with such violence that there is a calm central eye into which the air is descending and dissipating the clouds.

(Tomorrow: Autumn Starting Fast)

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