

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SEASON FOR HURRICANES

Late summer and early fall are not good times to visit the West Indies nor the coast resorts of the Gulf States, unless you are prepared for excitement and possible danger. For in August and the first half of September the hurricane season is at its height. Forecaster Mitchell, of the Weather Bureau, has found that more than half of the hurricanes of recent years have developed within this 6-week period. Tropical storms occur both earlier and later, to be sure, but are usually less intense.

A tropical disturbance which starts out during June, or from mid-September to mid-October has only three or four chances in nine of growing into a first-rate hurricane; but if such a disturbance appears during August or early September, its chances of reaching alarming intensity are about seven in nine.

This year our first severe tropical storm came comparatively early, as it struck the West Indies and Florida coast in late July. All hurricanes are not so destructive as this one, in which the wind velocity is reported to have reached 130 miles per hour at Nassau, but from six to seven violent storms may be expected in West Indian waters every year. In 1916, as many as thirteen were experienced; since then we have had fewer than the average.

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