

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

STUDYING FLOOD WEATHER

That engineers recognize the necessity of intensive local studies in dealing with flood problems is indicated by certain remarkable undertakings that have been carried on in the valley of the Miami River as a sequel to the devastating flood of March, 1913, which cost, in that valley alone, about 360 lives and destroyed property to a value of \$100,000,000. The Miami Conservancy District has been at work for some years planning and constructing safeguards against the recurrence of such a disaster.

In order to secure data to guide them in this enterprise the engineers of the organization have made a number of elaborate investigations. They have collected, for example, exhaustive records of storm rainfall for the whole of the eastern United States and made a detailed analysis of each storm, and they have studied every aspect of run-off in their own locality, using for this purpose not only the records of natural showers but also data obtained by means of artificial downpours on a number of tracts varying in slope and in soil conditions.

These and other studies of the Miami Conservancy experts are, of course, of much more than local interest, though they were undertaken entirely with a view to the requirements of a single engineering project. They have recently acquired added interest on account of the great revival of navigation on the Ohio River, of which the Miami is an important tributary.

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SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
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