

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 1, 1928

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DUST DEVILS

British meteorologists in Lower Egypt, Palestine and Iraq have recently been making systematic observations of the whirling columns of dust known in the Orient and elsewhere as "dust devils". One interesting fact revealed by these investigations is that, unlike the vast cyclonic systems, which always turn "counter-clockwise" in the northern hemisphere and "clockwise" in the southern, dust devils, in a given locality may revolve in either direction. Of 87 that were observed during a few months of 1927, 43 turned in the same direction as cyclones and 35 in the opposite direction. In the remaining nine the direction of rotation was not determined.

Some of the dust devils observed were estimated to be only 10 to 20 feet high, while the heights of others were estimated at 2,000 to 3,000 feet. The speed of travel varied from 4 to 30 miles an hour.

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