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† WHY THE WEATHER ? August 20, 1928

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SOME NEGLECTED CYCLONES

While it has long been known that tropical cyclones occur over the eastern North Pacific Ocean off the west coasts of Mexico and Central America, it was once supposed that these storms were quite rare, perhaps not attaining destructive violence more often than once in six or eight years. Information recently gathered however, shows that severe cyclones are about as common in this region as they are in the Caribbean, with its "West India hurricanes" or on the China coast, the haunt of typhoons. The reasons why they have hitherto attracted so little attention are set forth as follows by W. E. Hurd, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, in a recent comprehensive paper on the cyclones in question:

"Concerning the development and movements of these storms at first thought it is singular that we should still be seeking information. In the West Indies scarcely a storm has occurred for many years that cannot be fully tracked. Off the Mexican coast, on the contrary, scarcely a storm can be traced with absolute accuracy for the following reasons: This region is deficient in reporting stations, Clipperton Island and the four volcanic islets of the Revillagigedo group being uninhabited or practically so. Comparatively few of the storms affect the Mexican and Central American coasts in any marked degree. Moreover, vessels as a rule follow certain fixed routes which, though not outside the cyclone belts, do not thoroughly cover them. Thus steamships on the near coast routes may not become sufficiently involved in a storm to detect its cyclonic nature. Finally, the majority of the storms of this region are undoubtedly of much smaller diameter than the whirls of the great tropical cyclone areas, and are also shorter-lived."

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