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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

HURRICANE DAMAGE

In a hurricane country people should build for hurricanes. That is the most important lesson taught by the recent disaster in Florida, just as it was the most important one taught by the hurricane of 1926. Both storms revealed clearly enough that the building codes of the cities affected were altogether inadequate in their requirements for a region subject to tropical cyclones. A recent editorial in the Engineering News-Record says:

"A careful study of storm effects at Palm Beach and West Palm Beach but emphasizes earlier conclusions as to the character of the structures damaged. Well-built buildings were not seriously affected. The great damage was to poorly or lightly built ones. It seems clear, then, that we need not despair of even being able to put up structures which will stand before such storms as swept across Florida and the West Indies last month. A thorough examination of the damaged structures will show what types of construction stand up well and what types are an easy prey to high winds."

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SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D.C.