

Released on receipt
but intended for use
November 8, 1928

A Science Service Feature

Mailed November 1, 1928

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

HURRICANE SHELTERS

A promising method of promoting the safety of human beings during hurricanes, such as the one that lately swept over the West Indies and Florida, is pointed out by H. C. Hunter, of the United States Weather Bureau. While safety from tornadoes can be found in a strongly roofed "tornado cellar", the best refuge from a hurricane is, in most cases, to be sought well above the ground rather than below it. This is because a large proportion of the fatalities attending tropical hurricanes are due to water rather than wind. Along coasts great numbers of victims have been claimed by floods occurring when the storm waves rolled in. Inland equally disastrous floods sometimes result from the torrential rainfall that is a usual accompaniment of tropical cyclones.

"The proper refuge," says Mr. Hunter, "would be low towers. Very firm anchorage and powerful framework are quite essential in these proposed refuges, and flimsy construction of the enclosed room or rooms must be avoided. Portholes would be better than the strongest windows. Furthermore, it would be important to see that no trees grew near enough or high enough to fall against the refuge. Each of these refuges could serve an area four or five miles square, if persons in peril could be persuaded to start before wind and rain became intense. There would need to be an able leader or committee for each refuge to watch constantly for need of repairs and, in storm time, to marshal the threatened residents."

The feasibility of this plan depends upon the fact that, in most regions subject to tropical hurricanes, the coming of these storms is always heralded a long time in advance, so that there is ample opportunity to get people into the suggested places of refuge.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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