

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
May 14, 1930.

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 7, 1930

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

KEEPING WATCH FOR TYPHOONS

Zikawei Observatory, which has been maintained for more than half a century by the Jesuits in a suburb of Shanghai, besides being the headquarters of the largest unofficial weather service in the world, is famous among mariners for its typhoon warnings. More than a thousand of these dreaded storms have been heralded by the observatory since it began its work and many thousand lives have undoubtedly been saved by these announcements.

The observatory receives an average of two hundred reports a day by radio or wire from a network of weather stations extending all the way from Siberia to Manila and from Indo-China to the island of Guam, as well as from many ships at sea. A weather map of the Far East is drawn twice daily.

Typhoons approach the continent from the tropical North Pacific; usually from a region well to the eastward of the Philippines. From the time one is reported radio bulletins are sent out at frequent intervals, telling of its location and movement. For the benefit of ships and small craft in the harbor of Shanghai similar information is given by means of symbols displayed from a tall semaphore mast located close to the waterfront in the French Concession. A member of the observatory staff remains at the semaphore while the signals are up to answer questions. When a typhoon threatens danger at Shanghai its approach is announced by firing a cannon.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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