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May 28, 1930

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed May 21, 1930.

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Authority on Meteorology.

A REMARKABLE THUNDERSTORM

Writing from St. Lunaire, near Dinard, France, E. H. Lazarus describes in an English scientific journal a thunderstorm of extreme severity and most extraordinary duration that occurred thereabout last September. It started about 8 o'clock on Sunday evening the 15th and lasted until about 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon the 17th. The wind blew a gale from the northeast and the torrential rain accompanying the storm caused destructive floods.

"The lightning," says the writer, "was exceptionally vivid and lit up the whole of the coast. There was a continuous roar of thunder and several claps were deafening; it seemed to shake the whole foundation of the hotel as if it were an earthquake taking place rather than a thunderstorm. The storm quieted down toward Monday morning. It started again with renewed violence at 10 o'clock on Monday morning. Lightning struck the hotel conductor several times. The storm increased in violence toward night. Lightning jumped from cloud to cloud and sometimes seemed to fall in the sea. Tuesday morning the weather was no better; vivid lightning and crashing thunder still continued. The sea was exceptionally rough and the waves dashed upon the rocks. The rain fell in torrents. At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon the sky cleared and the thunder only rumbled in the distance and finally disappeared. The curious part of the storm was that a steady temperature between 60 and 66 degrees was maintained all the time."

A British authority, commenting on this description, states that "the devastating and recurrent thunderstorms were almost certainly confined to a very narrow band, which, however, may have extended along a front many miles in length. From the evening of September 15 to the evening of September 17 the 'thunderstorm line' remained stationary."

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