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but intended for use
September 22, 1931

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed September 15, 1931

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HURRICANES ON OUR SHORES

During the season of West India hurricanes - June to October, inclusive - the southern shores of the United States are subject to disastrous visits from these storms, yet the occurrence of one of them in any particular locality is a very rare event. Not all the tropical cyclones that reach our coasts are severe enough to rank as hurricanes, and in those that are the winds of destructive force are limited to a comparatively small area near the storm center, so that the track within which damage is done is, in most cases, only a few miles in diameter. Of the 84 tropical hurricanes that occurred on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the United States during the 50 years 1879-1928, inclusive, only 16 were classed by the Weather Bureau as "great" hurricanes, and even in these the path of destruction was only 40 or 50 miles wide and a few hundred miles long.

During the same 50 years no one state experienced an average hurricane frequency as great as one a year. The greatest average frequency for any state was one in 1.3 years in Florida. Texas ranked next, with an average of one hurricane in 2.1 years.

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