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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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TYPHOONS THAT VISIT INDIA

Typhoons are supposed to be limited to the waters and shores of the western North Pacific Ocean. The similar storms of the Bay of Bengal are called cyclones. It has happened, however, more than once that a typhoon, originating over the Pacific has crossed the Malay Peninsula from the Gulf of Siam and then swept northwestward across the Bay of Bengal. One of these known as the Fort Blair Cyclone, occurred in 1891, and another, the Chittagong Cyclone, in 1897.

A more recent case of this kind was that of the storm known as the Bengal Cyclone, of September, 1919, a scientific discussion of which has just been published in India. This storm originated in the Pacific as far east as longitude 145 East and had a chequered career lasting 20 days. Advancing westward it split in two east of the Philippines, and while one of the resulting storms moved north to Japan, the other passed as a moderate disturbance across southern Cambodia and Siam, increased in violence in the Bay of Bengal, and swept as a severe cyclone over eastern Bengal, finally dying out in the Khasi Hills.

This storm caused great waves on the coast and also in the Indian rivers, resulting in the loss of about 3,500 human lives and vast destruction of property.

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