

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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AN AMAZING DOWNPOUR

The heaviest 24-hour rainfall ever measured occurred at Baguio, the "summer capital" of the Philippines, in July, 1911, but only brief accounts of it have been published until this year, when a detailed story of the shower and its effects was issued by the Rev. Miguel Selga, director of the Philippine Weather Bureau.

This torrential downpour attended the passage of a typhoon. More than 88 inches of rain fell during the four days July 14-17, inclusive, the maximum fall in a 24-hour period being 46 inches from noon of the 14th to noon of the 15th. Two inches less than four feet of rain in 24 hours! This is more than falls in the eastern whole of an average year at most places in the northeastern United States and/Canada. more than normally falls in 13 years at Yuma, Arizona, and is the normal rain- It is ~~nearly-as-much-as-normally-falls-in-14-years-at-Yuma, Arizona, and more than~~ fall for a period of 2,300 years at Arica, Chile, ~~the-normal-rainfall-for-a-period-of-90-years-at-Iquique-Peru,~~ the driest known spot in the world.

The figures above given for the Baguio rainfall were obtained from the automatic record of a tipping-bucket rain-gauge. This instrument is supposed to register somewhat less than the true amount of rain during excessively fast showers; hence the actual fall in this case was probably even greater than that recorded. Assuming the shower to have averaged 46 inches in 24 hours over the whole town of Baguio, the town received during that period a total deluge of 57,000,000 tons of water.

The floods resulting from these typhoon rains almost completely destroyed the costly Benguet Road, completed in 1909, and did a vast amount of other damage in and about the town of Baguio.

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