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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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TORNADO INJURIES

Can you visualize the horrors of a tornado in which scores or hundreds of people are injured? It is as bad as any battlefield. Dr. William de Kleine, of the American Red Cross, paints the picture in a recent account of the group of storms that ravaged parts of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee on March 21 of this year, in which 326 persons were killed and 2,700 injured.

"The casualties," he says, "were the most mutilating I have ever seen, I doubt that modern warfare could be more destructive. Injuries resulting from tornadoes are much more severe than in other types of disaster. Under the terrific force of the whirling winds, flying and twisting splinters and other objects cause ghastly wounds, which are further complicated by dirt and splinters driven into the tissues. I have frequently heard nurses in hospitals say that they could not get the patients clean for several days; the dirt just had to wear off. One physician very aptly described the condition of the wounded. 'It seemed as though they had been chopped up with an axe and then dragged through a briar patch,' he said. Because of the dirt and splinters many of the wounds become infected. They often refuse to heal, and on careful examination several weeks after the storm large splinters are found embedded in the tissues. Nearly every tornado disaster develops one or more cases of tetanus, in spite of the fact that all the injured receive an immunizing dose of tetanus anti-toxin."

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