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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HURRICANE-PROOF BUILDINGS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

The hurricane that recently crossed Florida was fortunately not violent enough to cause great damage, but even if it had been much more severe well constructed buildings in the storm area would have withstood its fury. Writing recently in the Monthly Weather Review, R.W. Gray, in charge of the Weather Bureau station at Miami, says:

"A thorough inspection of the storm areas in the Miami and West Palm Beach hurricanes (September, 1926 and September, 1928), which rank with the greatest of record in so far as wind velocity and loss of life and property are concerned, clearly indicates that hurricanes of major intensity do not cause serious structural damage to properly constructed buildings. This statement does not apply to buildings near an ocean beach, where foundations may be undermined or the beach badly eroded by storm tides.

"If a building is properly constructed, including the proper type of roof and roofing material, and is securely anchored to the proper kind of foundation, it will not sustain serious structural damage in a hurricane of major intensity. If, in addition to the proper construction, all windows, doors, and vents are protected by storm shutters, the building should withstand strong hurricane winds with practically no damage. Such a building can be constructed at only a moderate increase of cost above that for the usual type of construction, and the saving in storm insurance will repay the extra cost in a few years time."

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