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? WHY THE WEATHER ? . Mailed August 28, 1933

HURRICANE BREEDING-SPOT

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

The severe storm that recently swept up the American coast has been traced to its source -- off the coast of Africa, east of the Cape Verde Islands. Until about ten years ago meteorologists hardly thought of seeking the origin of a North Atlantic tropical storm in that quarter of the ocean.

To Forecaster C. L. Mitchell, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, belongs the credit of gathering a large amount of statistical material, previously unused, concerning such storms, and plotting the tracks of all those recorded during the years 1887 to 1923, inclusive. It had previously been supposed that many cyclones have their starting points in the eastern part of the Caribbean, but the study mentioned revealed the fact that they seldom, if ever, originate in that region. Those that are first reported there probably all come from much farther to the eastward; especially from the vicinity of the Cape Verde Islands. On the other hand, a good many, especially in the early and late parts of the hurricane season, originate in the western part of the Caribbean and in the Gulf of Mexico.

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