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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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STORM NOISES

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

No manifestation of the tornado's fury is more appalling than the stentorian roar with which its approach and its passage are attended. This has been variously compared to the noise of a heavily loaded freight train passing through a tunnel; to thousands of cars crossing a bridge; to the loud roar of thunder; to the whirr of innumerable pieces of machinery. Part of the hubbub is evidently due in many cases to the simultaneous breaking of numerous trees, walls and other objects, but the bellow of the wind is said to be the dominant note in the chorus.

The noises of the tropical hurricane are different. Dr. Melville T. Cook, who has experienced three of these larger and less violent whirlwinds, says in a recent description:

"The approach of a hurricane is preceded by short periods of wind and rain, which become longer, stronger and more frequent until they merge into a continuous storm. The storm roars, howls and shrieks, but the most characteristic sound is a very shrill whistling. The intensity of the storm varies after it reaches its maximum velocity. The noise due to falling buildings, uprooting of trees and other destruction depends largely on the location, but the noise made by the storm is usually greater than that due to the destruction."

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