

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE TOLL OF STORMS

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Probably nobody has ever estimated the average annual toll taken by windstorms, in life and property, throughout the world. How vast the figure must be may, however, be gathered from some recent statistics relating to the United States, quoted in the insurance journal Rough Notes.

The data were compiled from Weather Bureau records by J.W. Mason, of the London Assurance, and cover the five-year period 1925-29. They show property losses for that period totaling \$264,796,000 and the loss of 4,363 human lives. The figures are known to be incomplete, since a good many windstorms occur concerning which no reports of losses ever reach the Weather Bureau. Thanks to two big hurricanes, Florida suffered far heavier losses than any other state, with damage to property amounting to \$108,006,000 and 2,147 deaths.

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