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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Nov. 20, 1934

THE CENTER OF A TYPHOON

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While hurricanes have been scarce this year in the Caribbean region, their Far Eastern counterparts, typhoons, have been exceptionally frequent and severe. No feature of these tempests, particularly at sea, is more striking than the "eye of the storm," where the wind dies out but the waves are dangerous in the extreme. Joseph Conrad's novel "Typhoon" contains this graphic description:

"Through a jagged aperture in the dome of clouds the light of a few stars fell upon the black sea, rising and falling confusedly. Sometimes the head of a watery cone would topple on board and mingle with the rolling flurry of foam on the swamped deck; and the Nan-Shan wallowed heavily at the bottom of a circular cistern of clouds. This ring of dense vapors, gyrating madly round the calm of the center, encompassed the ship like a motionless and unbroken wall of an aspect inconceivably sinister. Within, the sea, as if agitated by an internal commotion, leaped in peaked mounds that jostled each other, slapping heavily against her sides; and a low moaning sound, the infinite plaint of the storm's fury, came from beyond the limits of the menacing calm."

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