

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
January 2, 1935

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed Dec. 26 1934

A LOW BAROMETER

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

The most destructive typhoon that has occurred in the Far East for many years struck Osaka, Japan, and its neighborhood on September 21 last. The center of the storm passed over Cape Muroto, at the southeast corner of the island of Shikoku, where there is a meteorological station equipped with an accurate mercurial barometer. The lowest reading recorded from this instrument, reduced to sea level and standard gravity, was 684 millimeters (26.93 inches).

For a number of years the lowest reduced barometer reading for any meteorological station in the world has been given in standard works as 688 millimeters (27.08 inches), recorded at False Point, on the coast of Orissa, September 22, 1885. The recent Japanese reading was accordingly announced in newspapers and elsewhere as a new "world record," but these announcements overlooked a supposedly trustworthy reading made on the Dutch S.S. "Saparoea" in the center of a typhoon 400 miles east of Luzon on August 18, 1927. The pressure recorded in that case was 665 millimeters (26.18 inches); which, so far as anybody knows, is the real "world record" up to date.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.