

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
January 24, 1935

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 17, 1935

CONCERNING SEA SERPENTS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

Now that sea serpents are again in fashion, attention may be invited to the fact that in former times a good many alleged monsters of the deep were really waterspouts. Even today the natives living around Victoria Nyanza, where waterspouts are comparatively frequent, believe them to be apparitions of a great sea serpent, an account of which is given in the book "Inland Waters of Africa," by S. and E. B. Worthington (London, 1933), where we read that "it announces its coming by a terrible roar and emerges from the lake at certain times to swallow up human beings, canoes and everything in its path."

These authors add:

"The experience of a native who, when fishing or traveling on the lake, had been involved in a water-spout can well be imagined. The surface must rock and heave . . . as though disturbed by some enormous creature about to break surface, and men must have been completely overcome from time to time with no trace remaining of man or boat, as though all had been completely swallowed. Small wonder that the myth has come into being of the terrible monster which announces its coming with a roar and consumes man and boat alike!"

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
2101 Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.