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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HURRICANE WARNINGS

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West India hurricanes will probably soon be making news. Although according to the old nautical rhyme June is "too soon" for these storms, they do occasionally come in that month, and by July the hurricane season is well launched. The task of warning mariners and coastal dwellers of these dangerous tempests, first undertaken in a modest way in 1847, when Lt. Col. Reid began the display of storm signals, on the basis of local barometer readings, at Bridgetown, Barbados, has grown to vast proportions. Last year, for example, one of its details was the reception at Washington during the hurricane months for the information of forecasters, of more than 21,000 weather reports radioed from ships on the southern North Atlantic and adjacent tropical waters.

A notable expansion of the work is to occur this year. After July 1 warnings of tropical storms will no longer be issued from Washington, as heretofore, except for those that move north of latitude 35. The hurricane region is to be divided into three sections, each with a separate warning center, and warnings will accordingly issue from San Juan, New Orleans or Jacksonville. There will be more frequent radio reports from ships, many of which will send four routine reports every day, besides extra reports when hurricanes are actually blowing in their vicinity. Reports of storm tides and swells will be supplied by life-saving and storm-signal display stations. A rapid interchange of storm news between Weather Bureau stations along the Gulf and eastern Florida coasts will be maintained by means of a teletypewriter circuit, functioning day and night throughout the hurricane season.

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