

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
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September 18, 1935

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed September 11, 1935

HURRICANES AND TORNADOES

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Tropical hurricanes are generally very much larger whirlwinds than are the tornadoes of the temperate zone and also decidedly less violent. True tornadoes have sometimes occurred within the region where a hurricane of tropical origin was blowing, but, so far as I know, this has never happened until the storm had passed somewhat beyond the limits of the torrid zone.

It seems possible, however, that in some cases a revolving tropical storm may be intermediate in character between a hurricane and a tornado. On September 3, 1930, a tropical cyclone destroyed a great part of the city of Santo Domingo. According to one report 4,000 people were killed, 10,000 injured, and the property loss was \$60,000,000. The effects of the storm on buildings indicate winds rivaling those of the average tornado and limited to a path less than 20 miles in diameter. An eye-witness of conditions outside the city said: "The route of the storm was curious. It seemed to strike in spots. Certain parts of the country were terribly torn up, trees were uprooted and crops destroyed. Then directly next to a torn-up section the countryside was untouched." This feature suggests a tornado rather than a hurricane.

A typhoon (as a tropical hurricane is called in the Far East) wrought havoc at Hongkong on September 18, 1906. Dr. Doberck, then in charge of the Hongkong Observatory, told a government investigating committee that "it was more like a tornado than a typhoon," and that "it bridges the gap heretofore existing between typhoons and tornadoes."

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