

Ynez range had not up to this time shown any evidence of disturbance. It was well known, nevertheless, that a strong pressure exerted against the mountain range from the south has caused it to move gradually, so that Gaviota Peak, a triangulation point of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, has been pushed northward twenty-four feet in thirty years. As the last great earthquake shock in this region occurred sixty-eight years ago, in 1857, those who are familiar with the history of earthquakes in California expected a disturbance.

To a certain extent their expectations are now fulfilled, but fortunately the Santa Barbara earthquake is much less severe and much less general in effect than some seismologists have feared it might be. There is now little reason to anticipate any severe shock in the immediate future. We shall experience the usual crop of after tremors, but they will gradually die away as the rocks return to their normal condition of elastic strain.

The expectations of seismologists in regard to the coming of the Santa Barbara shock were of general nature only because we have not yet established the recording stations, which if set up throughout the coast region of California would enable us to foresee such occurrences. The Carnegie Institution of Washington is now engaged in establishing stations at Pasadena, Riverside, La Jolla and other points in southern California, where instruments designed to record local earth tremors will be set up.

All of the stations will operate in unison under the central control of the principal station at Pasadena and the records which they will yield will enable us to fix the focus of even the slightest tremors within fifty or sixty miles of the stations. As the records are continuous we shall know exactly where the earthquake strain is gathering and how it increases or diminishes from day to day or month to month.

In the course of time a chain of stations of this character will no doubt be established from San Diego to the Oregon line. But it will have to be done through the cooperation of the communities interested and will not be accomplished until public opinion is educated to an understanding of the advantage of knowing all that we can about earthquakes and the methods of protecting ourselves against their effects.

EARTHQUAKE A TEST OF BUILDINGS WORTH

by Watson Davis,
Managing Editor, Science Service,

Again Mother Nature has had growing pains and again it is demonstrated that man does not learn by experience.

For while the delightful Pacific coast town of Santa Barbara ^{was left} is in ruins, without water, gas or electricity, and the whole length of its principal State Street is practically wrecked, there are some buildings that are essentially undamaged. Those buildings that came through their serious shaking nearly unscathed were those that were built well.

The lesson that can be learned from the disaster here which I have just witnessed is that in areas subject to earthquakes, engineer, architect, contractor and owner must insist that the structures that they erect must be as nearly

earthquake-proof as modern engineering can make them.

This is a lesson that should have been learned from the disasters at San Francisco and Tokyo. Unfortunately, it will probably require many more earthquakes, many of them of much greater severity than this one, to cause men to refrain from erecting death traps over their very heads. For earthquakes will continue to occur in California as well as in other parts of the surface of the globe.

Near the railroad station at 6:44 A.M. there was a handsome hotel recently erected at a cost of some \$200,000. At 7:04 its guests found themselves exposed to public view on three sides of the structure. The shock had simply sliced the brick walls from the frame of the building. Such instances may be multiplied many times.

Yet Prof. Bailey Willis, president of the Seismological Society of America, who was in Santa Barbara and experienced the quake, says that it was a moderately severe, but not a very severe, shock, and that it is not a shock in which any decently built house should come down.

That the shaking was comparatively slight I can personally attest, for I had the great privilege of going through this earthquake totally unconscious of what was happening. I was asleep. I was on the last overnight Southern Pacific train to pass through Santa Barbara before the shock. At the instant of the first shock this train had reached three miles south of Santa Barbara, where it was nearly derailed by the force of the earthquake. The engineer stopped until the six severe shakes within nineteen minutes had passed away, and then proceeded cautiously toward Los Angeles. I supposed that the motion was due to normal train operations and slept through it all. The reports of the other passengers caused me to hurry back to Santa Barbara on the first Red Cross relief train leaving Los Angeles.

In spite of the coincidence of the two earthquakes, seismologists declare that there is no relation between the Montana shocks of Saturday and Sunday, and those at Santa Barbara. Both of these disturbances will, however, be the subject of detailed investigation by competent scientists.

EARTHQUAKES LIKE SAFETY VALVES SAYS SCIENTIST

Eight to ten thousand earthquakes are recorded every year in various parts of the world, and probably four times as many as this occur, but far from being alarming this is a very reassuring fact, Dr. William Bowie, of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey says. This is because the earth is thus shown to be a body capable of yielding to stresses and strains. If it were not the case, the strain would accumulate until great enough to produce disruptions far more violent than any that have ever occurred, and perhaps sufficient to wipe out all the works of man.

While the earthquake in California followed so closely upon the heels of the one in Montana, this is only a coincidence, said Dr. Bowie, and there was no direct connection between them, except that the shock of the Montana quake might have been the trigger to set off the one in California. This could not have occurred, however, unless the conditions had been ready for a tremor, and any one of a number of things might have been the last straw. Dr. Bowie thinks it possible that the rising of the tide might do it, as a depth of water of