

spectacular displays. These dashes into action smother his shame at feeling weak, inferior and inadequate.

"Some neurotic types, aware of their self-distrust, are often astute judges of the weaknesses of others. Hitler knows that his enemies—especially the ruling groups of France and Great Britain—are weak because they are afraid to crush him. Hitler knows that they fear a communist Germany rising from the ashes of a defeated Germany more than a Nazi Germany."

Dr. Gregory Zilboorg, New York psychiatrist and director of research of the Committee for the Study of Suicide, provides the explanation of Hitler's difficulty in diplomatic negotiations. He replied:

"Hitler is a phenomenon, apparently a compulsive neurotic character; hence his intense sadistic outbursts.

"His frequent pseudo-pious references to God and his hysterical outbursts of dramatic sorrow for the suffering of his German racial brethren are characteristic of compulsion neurotics who weep while murdering and murder while weeping. In other words his masochistic (pain-loving) inner conflict as an individual is fully reflected in his public life as leader of the German Reich.

"Hitler's psychological inability to negotiate or to make a compromise is what distinguishes him as a deeply neurotic person laboring under the pressure of a murderous impulse which is naturally associated with self-defeating suicidal drives. Because he, unlike Napoleon, is deeply neurotic, his self-defeatist drive came out more prominently and sooner than it appeared in the career of Napoleon. It is not that he identifies himself with the German race; he tries to inflame the race to identify itself with him.

### March to Self Defeat

It is significant that he called Vienna the incestuous city. He apparently struggles inwardly against his own incestuous drives which he expresses in the form of homicidal domineering drives. Hitler struggles against his own passivity by beholding a mass psychotic passivity of his herdlike following.

"His present adventure may very well prove to be the culminating point in his dramatic march to self-defeat."

In Science Service's request for diagnoses of Hitler's personality, it was recognized that diagnosis without seeing the patient is difficult. But in Hitler's case, speeches, writings and behavior are well reported. Due to the influence of Hit-

ler's personality upon the world situation at the present time, it was considered advisable to call leading psychiatrists in-

to this public consultation in order that their opinions might be made known.

*Science News Letter, October 8, 1938*

#### METEOROLOGY

## Slow-Moving "High" Turned Hurricane on New England

### Hurricane, Which Ordinarily Would Have Spent Itself At Sea, Turned North and West By the Obstruction

NEW ENGLAND, digging itself out from under hurricane debris, may take what consolation it can from the fact that the storm was the worst disturbance of tropical origin that ever struck its shores—was a high-power sea-blast even by Caribbean standards. Other hurricanes have visited the Northeastern seaboard in past years but never anything like this one.

A lazy high-pressure area, moving too slowly off to sea, was the indirect cause of New England's woes. Ordinarily, when a tropical storm center moving northward fails to make land below the Virginia Capes, it will veer off to the northeast and blow itself out at sea. But this one found itself stymied behind

that loitering "high," like an impatient motorist behind a slow truck, and was forced to move straight northward and then even towards the northwest.

The storm center traveled at a motor-car speed. Usually, hurricane centers travel at a rather leisurely gait, despite the high velocity of the winds that blow inward towards them. But the center of this storm averaged a northward speed of 53 miles an hour from off Cape Hatteras until it was over Long Island. Probably during part of that time it was moving as fast as 60 miles an hour.

Despite the terrible record of death and destruction left by this storm, the present hurricane season has been a relatively light one. Thus far, there have



#### WRECKAGE

*These remains of a home were photographed at Montauk, a small picturesque village at the northern tip of Long Island, by the American Red Cross, which is giving aid to 15,000 families in the hurricane area.*



#### AFTER THE BIG WIND

*Heavy loss was suffered by summer residents and fisher folk in the path of the tropical hurricane which departed from usual paths to hit Long Island and New England. An official photograph of the American Red Cross.*

been only four hurricanes detected in Caribbean and Gulf waters, and only two of these have been really severe—the one of Sept. 21, and one a few weeks back that struck the Mexican coast near Tampico and did not figure much in American news, although it did a great deal of damage to Mexican shipping and shore works.

The greatest hurricane season of all Weather Bureau history was that of 1933: with a total count of 21.

New England farmers face a winter of shortage and hardship as a conse-

quence of the hurricane, a survey by the U. S. Weather Bureau disclosed.

Laconically, it tells of disaster: "New England: All states, except Maine, ravaged by hurricane which ruined crops; little left for harvest. Greatly excessive rains in Connecticut and Merrimac valleys, and tributaries and streams in north-west Vermont seriously flooded towns, eroded farm lands, and washed out rails and highways. Potato digging in Aroostook County delayed; too wet."

*Science News Letter, October 8, 1938*

#### FORESTRY

## Grave Forest Fire Menace Faces New England

### Hurricane Tore Down Several Billion Feet of Timber Which Now Is Piled Ready to Catch Fire or Pests

**F**ORESTRY scientists are mobilizing government aid in an attack on the gravest forest fire menace in New England history.

Several billion board feet of timber were downed in New England by the recent hurricane, and today are piled like jackstraws into a giant tinderbox. Now October dry winds are at hand to usher

in the usual autumn forest fire season.

The Connecticut valley may get its first taste of the dangerous "crown fires" of the great western timberlands, unless immediate steps are taken to clear the fallen trees, declares Ward Shepard, director of the Harvard Forest.

Mr. Shepard has been appointed chairman of an emergency state forest fire

committee, created to coordinate federal, state, and city agencies.

Further danger threatens in an invasion of insect pests, infesting the dead trees, and later spreading to those still standing. This can be expected unless the fallen timber is cared for, Mr. Shepard said.

A principal purpose of the committee will be to help devise means of salvaging as much of the timber as possible for lumber. The total timber loss has been roughly estimated to be \$40,000,000. A major economic problem will be to help owners store the lumber and slowly dispose of it without flooding the market.

Typical losses were suffered by the Harvard University experimental forest of 2,100 acres, located at Petersham, Mass., near the central path of the hurricane. Out of a stand of about 10,000,000 board feet, half was blown down.

About 1,500 trees were downed at the Harvard Arnold Arboretum, near Boston, which contains thousands of trees and shrubs representing altogether about 7,000 different species suited to the New England climate, and gathered from all parts of the world. Because of extensive duplication, however, very few species were lost.

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#### GENERAL SCIENCE

## War Research Saps World's Inquiring Brain Power

**P**OTENTIAL war absorbs too much of the world's inquiring brain power to please those who desire more expenditures for making the world a better place in which to live. A recent estimate is that of all the money spent in research in the United States and Great Britain, one-fourth goes for military research. The percentage must be even larger in a nation like Germany.

Half of the research money is credited to industrial research and related pure research in physics and chemistry. Even some of this is a military expenditure in the last analysis. Most of the remaining fourth is devoted to agriculture and its supporting sciences. Social and humanistic sciences receive "such an infinitesimal part of the total as to be scarcely discernible!"

In Great Britain where an articulate group of scientists deplore and expose the "frustration of science," government estimates for 1938-9 show the ratio of 5 to 1 in favor of research funds for military purposes. Admiralty and air ministry research grants total \$22,900,-