

other clubs in that area once or twice a year.

Science Fairs are attracting more and more clubs. In 1949 these huge showings of the work of science clubs in a locality were held in such places at Atlanta, St. Louis, Washington, D. C., Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Boston, Providence and in Buffalo, Oneonta and Potsdam, New York. One Fair had 1,400 individual entries this year. The Fairs run from three days to 10 days and are visited by thousands of adults, who are often amazed at the scope of science interests and abilities among young people.

High spot in the year for those clubs having high school seniors is the annual Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships, conducted each year by Science Clubs of America. From the 16,000 boys and girls who enter, 300 are chosen for honors in this stiff competition which requires a three-hour aptitude examination, scholastic and personal records and a 1,000-word essay on "My Scientific Project." Each of the 300 is recommended to the college or university of his choice and most receive scholarships or other financial assistance that will assure them a chance to carry on their education in science.

Out of the 300 a total of 40 are invited

to Washington, D. C., for the five-day, all-expenses-paid Science Talent Institute. Here they learn of the latest developments in science, meet famous scientists, visit places of scientific interest and are awarded scholarships ranging in size from \$100 to \$2,800. Every club aspires to have a winner or honorable mention in this competition and many make this one of the major goals of their whole year's program.

Every school that places a winner receives a plaque to hang in their club quarters. No school has been able to win one of these each of the eight years of the competition but some can boast several. The whole school celebrates when it is honored in

the Search, and some have even granted half or whole day holidays when their winner returns from the Institute after being named the best boy or girl scientist in the USA.

Organizations of scientists in 15 states cooperated with SCA in 1949 to hold state Science Talent Searches and thus were able to honor other outstanding young scientists within those states with scholarships or cash awards to further their science education.

For information about any of the activities of Science Clubs of America write to Science Service, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Science News Letter, September 17, 1949

METEOROLOGY

# Hurricane Forecasting

➤ THE path to be followed and the probable damage to be done by hurricanes cannot yet be predicted with accuracy, but much progress in hurricane forecasting has been made in the past few years.

Because of the severe annual loss of life and property on Gulf Coast and Atlantic Seaboard regions, the U. S. Weather Bureau is giving particular study to the subject. Thirty-hour warning is now fairly reliable. These forecasts are from experienced weather men whose predictions are made on the basis of knowledge of a present hurricane and knowledge obtained by a fundamental study of hurricane movements of the past.

Cooperating with the Weather Bureau in hurricane studies is the Weather Service of the U. S. Air Force. Daring pilots of Air Force planes, with recording instruments and Weather Bureau observers abroad, have penetrated deep into the outer fringes of these gigantic tropical storms. The result is a better knowledge of air movements in a hurricane, and air movements preceding the storm, which are useful to a certain degree, in forecasting.

Of great assistance also, are radio reports from ships at sea and from aircraft over the ocean. Radiosonde, balloon-borne instruments carried high above the earth, is playing an important part. The instrument send constant weather data to the earth below by automatic radio signals.

There are hurricanes in many parts of the world, although they are known by different names. In the western North Pacific, they are called typhoons. In the northern Indian Ocean, they are known as cyclones, and in Australia as willy-willies. All, however, are tropical storms which originate close to, but not over, the equator.

The hurricane season in America is the late summer and early fall. The storms differ in violence and also in the distance they travel. Many of them hit the coast in the general Florida region, some travel-

ing up the coast, and others crossing the peninsula to appear soon in coastal regions of the Gulf states.

The violent hurricane of 1944 that caused millions of dollars damage in the New England states, and the perhaps equally violent storm of 1947 that crossed Florida and into Louisiana, might be cited as examples. The latter took 61 lives and caused a property loss of \$110,000,000. These two are the worst American hurricanes of the present forties.

During a 25-year period from 1917 to 1941, some 4,200 persons in the United States lost their lives by hurricanes, and there has been 74 fatalities since. Property damage since 1917 is estimated at about \$800,000,000. The New England damage from the hurricane of 1938 was perhaps \$250,000,000. This is said to be one of the most destructive storms in all history.

Science News Letter, September 17, 1949

Nuts of the *tung tree*, after the removal of the tung oil used in paints, make a meal valuable for cattle feed after a poisonous substance it contains is extracted; a satisfactory extraction process has been recently developed.

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