

## METEOROLOGY

# A-Bomb Debris

► RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS from Nevada atomic bomb tests does not cause tornadoes, D. Lee Harris of the U. S. Weather Bureau in Washington reported to the American Meteorological Society meeting in Miami Beach, Fla.

His conclusion is based on a study of the location and time of occurrence of tornadoes compared with the location and time of occurrence of radioactive debris. It was made because the year 1953 saw both the longest series of atomic tests in Nevada and the most severe tornado year on record at that time.

More tornadoes were reported in 1954 than in 1953, although no atomic tests were held in the continental United States. Mr. Harris credited "great improvement" in reporting the whirlers for the new records set both in 1953 and 1954.

In 1953, 532 tornadoes were reported; over 600 have been reported so far in 1954.

Because the heavy tornado year and many atomic tests coincided in 1953, many people thought radioactive debris could have caused the severe season for whirlers.

In his study, Mr. Harris used as a standard maps for each month of the year showing where tornadoes have occurred between 1916 and 1950. To these, he compared maps of recent years showing tornado occurrences as well as location of atomic debris.

If radioactive debris caused tornadoes, there should be more of the whirlers in regions of heavy fallout.

There is little correlation between the location and time of occurrence of tornadoes and radioactive debris, he concluded. There is, he said, a "faint and probably insignificant suggestion that there is a tendency for tornadoes to avoid the region of most intense radioactive fallout."

Science News Letter, November 27, 1954

## Questions

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## BIOCHEMISTRY

## Chemists Cut Arthritis Drug into Eight Parts

► ACTH, PITUITARY gland hormone famous for its relief of painful, crippling arthritis among many other ailments, has been chemically cut up into eight equally active components, Dr. Paul H. Bell of a research division of the American Cyanamid Company announces in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (Nov. 5).

One of these, known as beta ACTH, can do everything ACTH can. This is the most abundant component of the hormone, contains 39 amino acids and has a molecular weight of 4,556.

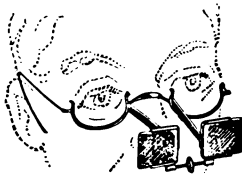
The isolation and discovery of the chemical make-up of this part of the ACTH hormone is expected to lead to better understanding of ACTH, the adrenal gland and various diseases, though not necessarily to synthesis of the drug. (See p. 343.)

Science News Letter, November 27, 1954

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## INVENTION

## Typist Can Now Select Type Shade

► A TYPIST can now print a letter in either a light or dark shade without slowing the typing speed by merely pressing an added key. Thomas A. Sharp of Rowayton, Conn., has invented a device that controls the effective printing surface of typewriter type. It is an extra, shiftable ribbon of either clear or opaque material. He assigned patent No. 2,694,481 to Remington Rand, Inc., of New York, N. Y.

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