

## MONOPOLY ON TORNADOES HELD BY AMERICA

Tornadoes, such as the one which left a path of death and destruction in Ohio recently, are a strictly American product, according to Dr. W. J. Humphreys of the U. S. Weather Bureau. This type of storm is very rare in other parts of the world and almost unknown in Europe.

The middle Mississippi valley is the region in which they are most prevalent. They are very rare in and east of the Appalachian Mountains, but are known in greater or less intensity in every part of the country east of the Rocky Mountains. None are recorded from the Pacific coast.

The exact conditions productive of tornadoes are not known. It has been observed, however, that they most frequently occur in the southeastern part of large circular storms and on the eastern part of V-shape storms.

Just as cross-currents produce whirlpools in swiftly moving water, so tornadoes are produced by cross-currents of wind. The waterspout observed over the Lake during the Ohio storm was merely the tornado passing over the water. The only difference between a waterspout and a Kansas twister is that the whirling winds are passing over water instead of land.

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TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

STORAGE BATTERIES, By George Wood Vinal. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York. Price \$4.50.

The National Bureau of Standards' expert on storage batteries has written, not a handbook for the worker in the storage battery service station, but a scientific treatment of the principles of storage batteries and their increasing application to transportation and commerce.

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## A PREHISTORIC TREE

The maidenhair tree, introduced into America and Europe from China and Japan but now not known to be growing wild anywhere, is the only survivor of an extensive family of prehistoric plants. It grows to be 100 feet tall and has leaves like the maidenhair fern. The most unique thing about it, however, is the way it gets its start in life. The flowers appear in April or early May and the pollen is distributed to the female flower. But sometimes the embryo is not formed until the seed has become full grown and fallen to the ground.

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Many banded birds return to the same place year after year.

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If we could magnify the point of a pin a billion-fold, we should find that a billion billion molecules could rest comfortably on this small area.

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