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General Features of Philippine Weather

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The average person who thinks about Philippine weather and the winds that influence it has heard of the "*Nortes*" and typhoons, and recalls the prevalence of a wind from the south in some places during the months of March and April, but that is generally as far as his knowledge extends.

I. AIR MASSES

Actually there are six winds or "air masses" that affect Philippine weather, and the typhoon is not one of them. They are the Northeast Monsoon, the Northeast Trade, the South Pacific Trade, the North Indian Westerlies, the South Indian Westerlies and the Temperate Zone Westerlies.

Two of these, the North Indian Westerlies and the Temperate Zone Westerlies, can be omitted from this study as of comparatively little importance. Of the others the South Indian Westerlies and the South Pacific Trade, since they ordinarily strike the Philippines either as *one* wind or at least as hardly distinguishable winds, will be grouped loosely under the title "The Southwest Monsoon".