OBSERVATIONS OF WATERSPOUTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Rev. Miguel Selga, S. J.

Introduction .- The purpose of this paper is to compile the main reports that have come to my knowledge, regarding waterspouts observed in the Philippine Archipelago. Most of the reports come from mariners and weather-observers. In their voyages through the island's seas, the former have an excellent opportunity of observing waterspouts at close range and at places seldom visited by other people. On account of their specific duties and training in Meteorology the later are in an excellent position to note down the characteristics of wind, cloud and weather in which the waterspout forms, develops and dissipates. Philippine Meteorology is greatly indebted to both, mariners and weather observers, because by their collection of observations. they have contributed data that may prove of inestimable value to the scientist engaged in explaining the nature of waterspouts. Not every reader, I presume, will accept all the details given in the description of the spouts: some readers, influenced by preconceived ideas, may consider some reports as exaggerations of language or dreams of the imagination; but an unbiased reflexion very likely will bring to the mind of the reader the conviction that spout's life, instead of being a plastic phenomenon, is subject to a surprising variety of phases and perflormances. The very fact that the text books on Meteorology are not all in agreement regarding even the most superficial characteristics of the waterspouts, is an indication, 1) that very little is known about the physical nature of the spout, 2) that many more observations are desired to supplement our knowledge of the life history of a waterspout from its inception to its disintegration and 3) that many of the statements found in text-books