

THE METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, 1908.

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THE general impression left by the year which closed on December 31, 1908, was that it was one of extraordinary meteorological conditions and events. Extraordinary have been the floods, and extremely severe and frequent the cyclonic storms that have passed over or exerted their influence on the Archipelago. The island of Luzon has been the one that suffered most from inundation and cyclone, yet, with the exception of Mindanao, Bohol, and adjacent islets, there has been no island that has not been visited more or less severely by heavy winds and cyclonic rains, and experienced the consequent floods and devastations.

These cyclonic tempests and inundations suppose an alteration in nearly all the meteorological elements. For this reason, it will not prove uninteresting to study briefly the amount of change experienced in different localities of the Archipelago, in order to obtain some idea of the characteristics peculiar to this year in a meteorological sense. We will fix our attention in a special manner on Manila, where these elements have been observed more closely, and because the capital was located almost in the centre of the zone comprising Luzon and the northern Visayas, zones most severely visited, our observations will indicate better and more universally these characteristics.

We will consider principally the alterations in the atmospheric pressure and precipitation, since these elements are more nearly related to storms and floods. The other elements, although very important for a study of the climate, we will take into account only in so far as they help us to understand the meteorological physiognomy, if I may be allowed such an expression, of the year 1908.

January.—The atmospheric pressure was somewhat greater than the normal throughout the Archipelago. In Manila the monthly mean showed a difference of +0.94 mm. [+0.37 in.] from the normal mean for January—the average for the past twenty-four years, which is given as 761.16 mm. [29.967 ins.]. In general, the normal was exceeded in the whole Archipelago, and the month was free from atmospheric depressions. The other elements did not show any great differences from the preceding year.

February.—Although the Archipelago was not affected by any important depressions, nevertheless the atmospheric pressure was everywhere lower than the normal of this month, and in Manila the mean for the month was less by 1.59 mm. [0.63 in.] from that of 761.39 mm. [29.977 ins.], the normal for February. As an effect of the low atmospheric pressure the stations of Luzon reported a larger amount of rainfall than the average; while in the Visayas, in spite of the contrary effects of the North-east monsoon, the precipitation was a little less than in February of other years. The temperature showed no very great