

THE TYPHOON OF THE BATANES ISLANDS AND SOUTHERN FORMOSA, AUGUST 21 TO 29, 1911.

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Though the typhoons which visited the Philippine Islands during the present year have excited a great deal of comment, very little has been heard concerning the worst of them all, one which fully deserves to be classed with the few typhoons which from time to time cross the Archipelago leaving in their wake a sad trail of ruins and desolation. We are speaking of the typhoon which burst over the Batanes Islands and southern Formosa on August 26. The reason why it was hardly mentioned in Manila lies in the fact that the Batanes are without telegraphic communication and that, consequently, the news of the catastrophe reached the capital only a month after the occurrence.

The observer in charge of the meteorological station at Santo Domingo, Batan Island, avers that the oldest people of the town declare, never in their lives to have witnessed a storm of equal fury. The Director of Taihoku Observatory, Formosa, likewise informs us by letter that the chief of the station at Koshun, southern Formosa, reported this typhoon as very much fiercer than the one of August 29 of the preceding year. But in the discussion of the latter in the BULLETIN for August, 1910, the following remark is found regarding the wind velocity developed by this storm while it passed over Koshun: "So great a velocity (56.8 meters per second) had not been observed since the establishment of the station."

The Director of Taihoku Meteorological Observatory, Mr. Kondo, has kindly placed at our disposal isobars, barograph curves, and most valuable observations which serve admirably to confirm the course which we had supposed that the storm followed in crossing the southwestern coast district and the Channel of Formosa during the night of the 26th and the forenoon of the 27th. We gladly make use of this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation of the promptness and generosity wherewith Mr. Kondo furnished us with these important data.

Origin of the storm.—In all probability this typhoon formed on August 21 to the west of the southern islands of the Ladrone or Mariana group; at least such is indicated by the observations made at Guam and Yap, which we present in the following table: