SETS HIS DEVICE TO FIND ATLANTIC GALES

Father Algue's Instrument Tried Out in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

EFFECTIVE FOR 500-MILE AREA

A Study of the Pressure in West Indies and Here Extends Use—Navy Adopts It.

Father José Algué, Director of the Philippine Weather Bureau, is in this city after spending more than a month at Havana and Washington, in making calculations for the Navy Department, which has adopted his invention for detecting the approach of storms at sea. He is staying at St. Francis Xavier College, 30 West Sixteenth Street, and will leave next Saturday on the Berlin to return by way of Europe to the Philippines.

Father Algué's invention is called the barocyclonometer. He perfected it in 1897, and since that time it has come into general use among vessels sailing to the East Indies and Asia. To apply the barocyclonometer to the Atlantic Ocean, however, required a new set of calculations, and at the invitation of Capt. Jayne, Superintendent of the Naval Observatory at Washington, Father Algué went to study data at Washington and Havana which would make it possible to use his device on the North Atlantic.

The work which Father Algué had to do was to determine the normal atmospheric pressure at different latitudes on the Atlantic Ocean. The barocyclonometer shows the variation from normal atmospheric pressure. When the variation from the normal pressure is known, it is possible, by observing the direction and velocity of the wind, to detect a hurricane at a distance of 500 miles and to calculate the path it will take. Ships equipped with the instrument have no difficulty in keeping clear of storms in the Pacific and East Indian Ocean, where they are now in use, and shipwreck due to storms has been almost entirely eliminated by this device. In the eastern tropical seas, where storms are most frequent, the hurricane, or typhoon, cannot, since the invention of the barocyclonometer, take a vessel by surprise, and are no longer to be dreaded.

Father Algué has prepared a chart of the atmospheric pressure at points on the Atlantic Ocean from the equator as far north as the sixtieth parallel. At Havana he found accurate observations of the atmospheric pressure in the West Indies for the last half century. At Washington he obtained observations taken at points along the coast of the United States and Canada for the last twenty-seven years. With this data he has prepared the dial for a barocyclonometer for use on the Atlantic Ocean, showing the normal atmospheric pressure at different parallels. This dial is combined with an ordinary barometer, so that a glance at the instrument shows the variation of pressure wherever the instrument happens to be.

The instruments designed by Father Algué have been ordered by the Secretary of the Navy for all naval vessels and all Atlantic Naval Stations. It is planned to introduce them into general use among all classes of ships before the opening of the Panama Canal.

Father Algué is a native of Barcelona, Spain. From 1891 to 1893 he was assistant at the Observatory of Georgetown University. In 1893 he went to the Philippines, where he became Assistant Weather Observer, and then head of the department under the Spanish Government. After the Spanish-American War, he was retained in that position by the United States. Other inventions of his are the reflecting nephoscope for observing the movement of clouds and the reflecting zenith telescope for recording latitude.

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