"EQUINOCTIAL STORMS" MYTH

Have No Standing in Meteorology, Says Weather Bureau Expert.

Washington.—This is the storm time of the year, but there are no such things as "equinoctial storms." They are a myth and have no standing in meteorology, according to a statement by the American Nature association. This will shock thousands who have carried from school days some hazy information about "equinoctial storms," such as caught the Shenandoah. They are line squalls.

"There is no maximum of storm frequency according to statistics, either in this country or in Europe, close to the date of either equinox," according to the American Nature association, which publishes an extended statement on the point in Nature magazine, by C. F. Talman of the United States weather bureau. "Of course in the long run many storms do occur about these dates, just as they occur at all other times," the writer points out, "but there is no scientific reason for supposing their occurrence can be connected in any way with the sun's passage over what the schoolboy described as a 'menagerie lion running around the earth'."

Looked for in Autumn. An "equinoctial" is looked for in the United States particularly in the autumn. The autumnal equinox occurs during the season of West India hurricanes, and it occasionally happens that storms of this character sweep up our eastern seaboard within a week or two of the date in question, extending their influence far inland. These events have probably helped to foster the widespread belief in an autumnal equinoctial storm.

"The Shenandoah was caught in a line squall," the statement continues. "A balloon or airplane would not have been exposed to similar strain and would probably have weathered

"In fact, part of the wrecked airship, containing some of the gasbags, was wafted to earth 12 miles from the scene of the disaster, carrying several members of the crew to a safe

"The squall that caused this tragedy of the air takes its place in the catalogue of historic storms. It brought to general knowledge the fact, previously little realized except by weather men and airmen, that storms can wreak their fury by blowing vertically as well as horizontally. It also naturalized the term "line-squall" in the popular vocabulary.

Violent upward and downward movements of the air prevail in all equalls and thunderstorms. This fact has been known for many years, but k has only recently assumed practical importance. Formerly only the birds whirled aloft or dashed downward by vertical gales, but today such gales threaten the lives of an army of aero-

"Squalls, like tornadoes, are of such brief duration and generally of such limited area that they defy prediction by means of the ordinary machinery of weather forecasting.

"As to storms, the Big Wind of Ireland.' January 6-7, 1889, according to contemporary newspaper accounts was one of the great weather disasters of modern times.

"The 'Great Storm' of 1708 is supposed to have been the most severe

that ever visited the Brittet Inles. It cost the lives of more than 8,000 seamen, including some 1,500

men of the royal navy. "The Barbados hurricane of was probably the most destructive hurricane that has occurred in West Indies.

"Saxby's gale swept over eastern Canada with terrific force October 4, 1869. It owes its name to the fact that it was predicted by a Lieutenant Saxby of the British navy. Historic Storms.

"In the Backergunge cyclone, Oc tober, 1876, more than 100,000 people were drowned by the storm waves over the Ganges delta.

"The blizzard of March 11-14, 1888 also known as the 'great March bliszard,' 'the New York blizzard,' and in New Hampshire, as the 'town-meet ing storm,' is historic.

"The Samoa hurricane of March 16, 1889, wrecked American and German warships in the harbor of Apia, with heavy loss of life.

"The St. Louis tornado of May 27, 1896, was the most destructive of the three tornadoes that have occurred in large American cities, the others being the Louisville tornado of 1890 and the Omaha tornado of 1913.

"The Portland storm of Novembe 26-27, 1898, is the classic example of the danger of ignoring storm signals



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BRYCE CRAWFORD. County Judge. 4t-9-11-25

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