

## BOMBAY CYCLONE OF NOVEMBER, 1948.

The storm that paralysed Bombay on 22nd November, 1948 is one of the most severe tropical cyclones ever recorded in Bombay's history. During this cyclone, the wind shot up to 80 m.p.h. at Colaba in a gust recorded at 0930 hrs. IST on 22nd November. At Jubu the maximum wind speed was 94 m.p.h. in a gust recorded at 0940 hrs. IST on the same day. The previous record was 75 m.p.h. at Colaba during the cyclone of 16th October, 1940.

As usual in this month, the cyclone had its origin in the form of a trough of low pressure in the Southwest Bay of Bengal. This trough of low pressure is essentially a

frontal surface, where the dry continental air, modified by a certain amount of sea-travel meets the equatorial moist air. This low pressure area moved westwards into the Southeast Arabian Sea on the 15th November. Thereafter, it took a northwesterly course off the Malabar Coast and concentrated into a depression on 18th morning with its central region about 450 miles west of Calicut. It then moved northwestward and intensified into a cyclonic storm on 19th evening. Its centre was 500 miles West of Ratnagiri on 20th morning. During the course of the next 24 hours it recurved towards northeast and became severe. Its centre was near Lat.  $19\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N and Long.  $69^{\circ}$ E at 08 hrs. of 21st. Thereafter it moved eastwards and struck coast near Dahanu (about 50 miles North of Bombay) at about 10 a.m. on 22nd. Bombay got the full fury of the southern sector of the ring of hurricane winds between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 22nd November. After passing inland the storm moved eastwards but weakened rapidly and finally became unimportant. The storm caused a good deal of havoc along the Bombay Coast.