

FLOODS .

2/11/54.

Following a summer almost universally cold and wet --- stories of flood damage in Europe begin to hit the headlines. Terrestrial rainstorms in the Athlone district of Ireland, have flooded the River Shannon; in this district alone, more than twenty square miles lie beneath the water. A further downpour of twenty-four hours, made these ^{the} worst floods for thirty years.

But this disaster in Ireland is overshadowed by the news from Italy --- where floods and landslides have wrought ~~such~~ have unparalleled. Near Salerno, several small villages have been almost wiped out.

Soldiers have been hurried to the scene to take charge of rescue work; but nearly all means of communication --- roads, railways and telephones --- have been cut off. First estimates gave the number of killed as well over two hundred; many hundreds of families, have been driven from home.