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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Dr. Charles F. Brooks,  
Secretary, American Meteorological Society,  
tells about:

THE ICE STORM

The ice storm, known in England as glazed frost, is not an uncommon phenomenon in the United States, though, fortunately, rarely occurring in its most severe form, when overwhelming accumulations of ice, in combination with a gale of wind, bring great devastation to the trees and to telegraph, telephone and other exposed electrical transmission lines. Nor is the ice storm confined to the northern states, for it is by no means unknown in the south, though not often as a destructive element of weather.

The combination of temperatures and humidity which result in the ice storm occurs more often than is realized by the superficial observer. New England, where the phenomenon most frequently occurs, has a number of them each winter. The first this winter occurred October 23 in western Massachusetts at heights above 2200 feet. Once in a great while conditions arise which are especially favorable, such as were experienced in southern central New England and New York November 27-29, 1921. A three day ice storm occurred, doing millions of dollars damage. A similar storm occurred late the following February in central Michigan when electric wires carried two pounds or more of ice to the foot, and the lighthouse at Frankfurt had an ice coating an inch and three-quarters thick.

No other aspect of the northern winter is so beautiful as the ice storm, particularly in the sunshine following, when all nature seems encrusted with glittering diamonds.

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(Tomorrow: The Cause of the Ice Storm)

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Science Service,  
1115 Conn. Ave.,  
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