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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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VICIOUS LIGHTNING

It is not true that "lightning never strikes twice in the same place"; in fact it is rather likely to follow more than once an exceptionally good route to the ground. In April, 1917, a barn in Ohio was struck and burned. It was rebuilt about May 15 and was again struck by lightning on May 23! In the same April in another part of Ohio, nine telephone poles were struck and reduced to kindling, a repetition of a happening of the year before. Lightning often descends repeatedly on mountain tops or other particularly prominent objects, hence houses and observatories built in exposed sites on mountains require copper roofs or other special protection.

Sometimes in a single storm lightning strikes many times within one small area. On July 31, 1921, at least 15 places on Block Island were hit, barns and cottages being burned or badly damaged. A marked concentration of lightning discharge was reported in Ohio in 1917, when at about three minute intervals, one severe electrical storm struck eight times within a square mile, not including a barn just across the river. In this instance the lightning hit 2 trees, 4 wheat shocks, a post, and a couple of cows. In mountainous regions, far greater concentrations occur at times.

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