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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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DISTRIBUTION OF ICE STORMS

Dwellers on slopes know what an ice storm means. Not only do pedestrians skid, but horses, autos, streetcars, dogs, and chickens, move ignominiously on parts and in directions they should not, or fail to get into forward motion when their legs or wheels start. The ice storm is known practically throughout temperate and sub-polar latitudes. Parts of most of the United States and Canada from Atlantic to Pacific some time or another in winter take on a coating of smooth ice, when raindrops falling on trees, wires, and the ground make a slippery glaze. Europe experiences similar visitations, and so do portions of Asia, for the descriptions of Japanese ice storms might well have been written of our American ones. Ice storms are seldom reported from southern latitudes, presumably because of the smaller populations and the smaller land masses where they might develop.

In North America it is difficult to tell where ice storms are most numerous. Perhaps one reason is that the frequency of ice storms is no more a matter of local pride than other undesirable weather. However, northwestern Oregon and eastern Washington, and Arkansas, Missouri, and Iowa and the states to the eastward have plenty. A study of ice storms at Blue Hill Observatory near Boston, Mass., showed that 178 occurred in 28 years.

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(Tomorrow: Cause of Ice Storms)

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