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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE IN SAME PLACE

Though it is said that "lightning never strikes twice in the same place" this is not true. The Eiffel Tower, in Paris, a steel structure 1,000 feet high, has been struck often, indeed even six times in a single heavy storm. Lightning often descends again and again on mountain tops or other particularly prominent objects, such as monuments and chimneys. Even barns are subject to repeated strokes, according to many reports this summer. In Worcester, Mass., recently, a steeple, struck and set fire, was struck again and refired while the firemen were still at work.

Lightning seeks the easiest and shortest way to the ground. Usually a good electrical conductor projecting above material of higher resistance is favored by lightning. If such a conductor is well grounded, deep in moist soil, it carries the lightning discharge safely to earth. This is the function of the lightning rod. The Washington Monument is protected by an aluminum tip connected by copper rods to a large iron column in the elevator shaft running to the ground, this in turn is connected with copper rods running into a well 30 feet deep.

(Tomorrow: Night Air)

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