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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RODS AND LIGHTNING DAMAGE

Nobody now need doubt the value of lightning rods in affording considerable protection against damage by lightning. Prof. J. Warren Smith, in his instructive book, "Agricultural Meteorology," presents statistics on lightning damage to rodded and unrodded farm buildings in the central part of the United States. He shows that the chance of being struck by lightning is more than 10 times greater for the unprotected building. In some sections not one of several thousand rodded buildings has been materially damaged by lightning in the course of several years. When rodded buildings did happen to be struck, usually only about five in a 100 burned down. In cases where buildings were struck but not burned down the average damage was less than \$10 for the building with rods and nearly \$200 for other buildings.

Lightning rods help in two ways, they give off quiet discharges of electricity between earth and atmosphere, thus by ionization virtually lengthening themselves, and furnish easy paths for the lightning that does strike.

But lightning rods do not afford absolute protection nor can they fully protect inflammables, explosives, or electrical machinery against great damage. The burning of oil tanks, the occasional destruction of expensive dynamos, and the discharging of explosives take place in spite of rods. The naval stores at Lake Denmark, New Jersey, are said to have been protected against lightning according to the best methods of modern engineering, yet one stroke produced a great catastrophe, taking over a score of lives, injuring some 300 people, and causing damage estimated in excess of \$70,000,000.

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