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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LIGHTNING'S TRAVELS

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When lightning enters a house it sometimes takes a strange and devious course, which can subsequently be traced by its visible effects. A case of this kind that occurred some years ago at Althorpe, Lincolnshire, England, is described as follows in a current scientific journal by Allan Ellison, who was living in the vicinity;

"The flash struck a disused chimney, and deviated to the head of an iron bedstead in an upper room, upon which two boys were lying, followed the iron frame underneath the bed, setting the bedding on fire, but without injuring the occupants, descended the further leg of the bedstead, making a hole in the floor into which one's finger could be inserted, and penetrating to the room below. There it traveled straight downwards in the corner until half-way to the floor, when it turned sharply at right angles and passed horizontally along the wall to the next corner, making a blackened score in the wall paper. Again it pierced a hole, big enough to put a finger into, through the wall into a larder behind, fused together some cake tins which lay on a shelf, fitted one inside the other, and then it passed through the open door of the larder, across the kitchen and out through the open entrance door of the cottage. In the kitchen four persons were seated around a square table at supper. The flash passed across the table and burned to a blackened cinder a piece of ham which was on a dish in the center, and on which lay the carving knife and fork, again without injuring any of the four persons. I could not

have believed these details true if I had not personally examined the house and the various objects mentioned, and questioned the inhabitants just after the storm."

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