

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SEEING LIGHTNING STRIKE

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Authority on Meteorology.

It is not often that a professional student of weather has the good luck to see lightning strike some nearby object. Recently this privilege was granted Albert K. Showalter, of the U.S. Weather Bureau. He was watching the movements of the clouds in Washington during a thunderstorm, using^{as}/a sighting point the northwest corner of the main Weather Bureau building. While he was looking at this corner, it suddenly became the terminus of a lightning discharge between the building and a cloud. The discharge had the appearance of ordinary streak lightning, but it ended at the corner of the building in a brilliant blaze of reddish light, somewhat roundish though not a perfect sphere. Pieces of brick and stone were thrown in all directions except upward. There was no loud crash of thunder, but merely a crack, almost simultaneous with the flash of lightning.

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