

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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CURED BY LIGHTNING?

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology

The other day at Novara, Italy, according to a current press despatch, Giacomo Boisson, a 56-year old beggar, who had been a helpless cripple with paralysis for years, suddenly appeared among his friends and acquaintances on his own legs. He swore that lightning struck a tree under which he had sought shelter, the bolt splitting the tree asunder, killing the dog that dragged the little cart he was forced to use as a means of locomotion, burning the cart and knocking him senseless to the ground. When he came to, he declared under oath, he found he was able to move his legs for the first time since they were paralyzed by a fall.

Camille Flammarion, in his book called, in the English translation, "Thunder and Lightning," records several cases in which paralytics are said to have been cured by strokes of lightning. Are these tales true? What do the medical authorities say on this subject?

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2101 Constitution Ave.  
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