NEW METHOD OF PROTECTING BUILDINGS FROM LIGHTNING.

SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE HOUSE!

Lightning Destroys. Shall it Be Your House or a Pound of Copper?

PROTECTION FROM LIGHTNING.

What is the Problem?

In seeking a means of protection from lightning-discharges, we have to view two objects: the one, to preserve the buildings; and the other to prevent the injury of life. In order to destroy a building, as in all parts of it, where there is no prevention of damage in buildings, and the prevention of injury to life. In order to destroy a building, we must destroy it in such a way as to result in the least injury to property and life.

Why Have the Old Rods Failed?

When lightning-roads were first proposed, the science of energetics was entirely undeveloped; it is to be in the middle of the last century scientific men had not come to realize the fact that the different forms of energy — heat, electricity, mechanical power, etc., — were convertible in a manner, and that each could produce just so much of each of the other forms, and so on. The doctrine of the conservation and conversion of energy was first worked out in the early part of this century. There were, however, some facts known in regard to electricity a hundred and forty years ago; and among these was the attracting power of points for an electric spark, and the conducting power of metals. Lightning-roads were therefore introduced with the hel consisted and more or less the column of electricity that makes up the column of a lightning-rod was used to protect and thus result in the least injury to property and life.

The question as to dissipation of the energy involved was entirely ignored; and from that time to this, it is the least injury to the best of the several kinds of interested-light-roads constructed in accordance with Franklin's principles have not furnished satisfactory protection. The reason for this is, that the electrical energy existing in the atmosphere before the discharge, or less exciting, is so reduced in the column of air extending from the cloud to the earth, that it is the least injury to the best of the several kinds of interested-light-roads constructed in accordance with Franklin's principles have not furnished satisfactory protection. 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Editor's Summary

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