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 in view the prevention of injury to human beings, the destruction of buildings, and the other prevention of injury to life. In order to destroy a building in whole or in part, it should be done, that is, physicians express it, energy is required. Just before the lightning-discharge takes place, the energy stored up in the system is so great that it is necessary to prevent this energy from being put into the atmosphere. The object of lightning is to use this energy in a controlled manner so that the best result is obtained for the least possible energy expended.

Why have the Old Rods Failed?

When lightning-rods were first proposed, the science of energetics was entirely undeveloped; that is to say, in the middle of the last century scientists had not come to recognize the fact that there is a different forms of energy - heat, electricity, mechanical power, etc. were convertible into one another, and that each could produce just as much of each of the other forms, and no more. The doctrine of the conservation and correlation of energy was first clearly worked out in the early part of this century. There were, however, some facts known in regard to electricity a century and a half years ago; and among these was the attracting property of points for an electric spark, and the conducting power of metals. Lightning-rods were therefore introduced with the object of making use of the electrical energy existing in the lightning-rod,
Editor's Summary

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