

SAFETY RULES IN ELECTRIC STORMS

Student of Lightning Says, "First Get Under Cover."

Milton, Mass.—About this season, as the old almanacs used to say, expect thunder storms. Inevitably they bring danger to human life, but the hazard can be diminished considerably if the advice of men who have made a thorough study of the electrical discharges of the atmosphere is followed.

One of these experts is Alexander G. MacAdie, director of the Blue Hill observatory and professor of meteorology at Harvard university. In the little building on the wind-swept summit of Blue Hill, the highest point in eastern Massachusetts and in the midst of the Blue Hill forest reservation, he has spent many years in watching and analyzing the action of the elements.

Studies Thunder Storms.
He has made a special study of thunder storms and some time ago he formulated a set of suggestions to help people take care of themselves during such disturbances. Since that time, he says experience has borne out the value of these suggestions and science has not developed any new means of safeguarding a person against lightning discharges.

Get under cover, is his first rule. If you can't do that, lie down. About ten lightning flashes in a hundred come down to earth in a straight line, and the person who stands out in the open when such flashes are seen, invites trouble. But getting under cover doesn't mean seeking shelter beneath a tree because that will bring you in the direct line of discharge, and Professor MacAdie says more people are killed by lightning in this way than probably any other.

Cut Out Radio.
The doorway of a barn or a window near a chimney also are dangerous places to stand, because lightning follows to some extent any draft of air, especially warm air. When the flashes are heavy or numerous, keep away from chimneys, trees, flagpoles or metal clotheslines, and cut out your radio.

You are safer indoors than out. The probability of a person in an ordinary residence building being struck, says Professor MacAdie, is very slight, and dwelling houses in city blocks are virtually safe. He defends the lightning rod, once so popular, but now largely fallen into disuse, asserting that if a house is provided with good lightning rods there is little to fear.

INSURES HER NOSE



Mrs. Blanche Cavitt of Oklahoma City, Okla., a big perfume importer, has had her nose insured by Lloyds for \$50,000 in case something might affect her sense of smell. She has now gone to Europe to buy choice perfumes and to attend the Decorative Arts exhibition in Paris.

Introduced Grapefruit

The Spanish explorer, Ponce de Leon, is credited with having brought the grapefruit to Florida when he landed on the east coast of the state in the year 1513. During the three centuries that the Spaniards disputed possession of the state with their Old-world enemies, nothing was done to develop the grapefruit, or any of the other citrus fruits introduced in Florida at that time, except to distribute it to the communities in the southern part of the state.

Legend and Mystery About Nevada Lake

From the earliest settlement of Nevada the legend of a gigantic serpent inhabiting the depths of Pyramid lake has been told. The serpent is said to enter the lake through a vast underground passage extending from the Pacific ocean and is supposed to have existed since prehistoric times.

Basking in the depths of the lake, it lies in wait for luckless adventurers, draws down boats and canoes and devours its victims. The legend has been investigated by many scientists and some contend that the serpent is really an enormous mass of worms that breed in the usually placid waters. But this opinion is jeered by Indians and the old white settlers who have caught fleeting glimpses of the mammoth snake.

Pyramid lake is an inland sea of mystery. Situated 900 miles from the ocean, its isles swarm with vast flocks of seagulls and pelicans. The lake receives the discharge of the Truckee river but has no outlet—yet the waters are fresh and abound in trout and other fish.

Four-Leaved Clover Has Long Been Luck Symbol

That a four-leaved clover will bring luck to the one who finds it is an ancient superstition, and there can be no way of learning for a certainty how it started. Old writers suggest that its resemblance to the form of the cross is the root of the notion.

"The person who carries a leaf of the four-leaved cruciform clover about with him," asserts one of these, "will be successful at play, and he will dream of his beloved, or the maiden may, by slipping a leaf into her lover's shoe without his knowledge, as he is about to set out on a journey, secure his sure and safe return to her embrace."

It may be noted that the three-leaved clover also had some virtue, because it symbolized the Trinity, and the tradition is that St. Patrick converted the whole Irish people to Christianity by showing them, through the trifoliate leaf of the shamrock, how the three persons in the Godhead might exist and yet be one.

Earliest Book Plates

It probably was because books were so few and precious in that early dawn of bookmaking and printing and illustrating that the first book plates were not as book plates are today. A king or queen or lord or lady did not have printed a mere tag, reading: "This book belongs to Beatrice Aragon." Instead, Beatrice of Aragon, for her book plate, had her picture together with the picture of her husband, Matthias I. Corvinus, king of Hungary 1443-90, at the foot of page two in their joint book, "De Spiritu Sancto," written by Sigismundus de Sigismundus and illuminated by Attavante dell Attavanti.

All in all, those early days of books had much in their favor. You didn't have to worry much about borrowed volumes. You had no worries, either, about sectional bookcases. Your one volume was per se a first edition.

Island Is American

Palmyra Island came under American sovereignty with the annexation of the Hawaiian islands in 1898. It was originally known as "Eamaraang" and was discovered by Captain Sawle of the American vessel Palmyra in November, 1802. An expedition conducted by Capt. Zenas Bent took possession of it in the name of the Hawaiian kingdom in 1802. It was annexed by Great Britain in May, 1889, and later became a possession of the Hawaiian islands, being included in them when these islands with all their dependencies became a part of the territory of the United States.

Explaining "Monads"

A monad is one of the elements containing within themselves the principles of both substance and form, by the combination of which the universe is constituted and by whose activities its changes and developments are explained. According to Leibnitz, they are nonspatial, self-acting forces, or immaterial units, each one representing the same universe, but representing it from a different point of view, and each attaining its activity through the will of God, in Himself simple actuality and perfection.—Washington Star.

Museum Gets Treasure

Hawick museum has been enriched by the reception of a Chinese porcelain grotto or shrine. This was brought from China some hundred years ago, and the British museum authorities have furnished the following information: "It is what is called a 'grotto piece,' and is probably quite fanciful, giving a suggestion of a mountain shrine or pleasure place with figures of visitors. Such pieces were made commonly in the potteries near Fatsaha, to the Canton delta."—Family Herald.

Wood of Lignum-Vitae Harder Than Hickory

Lignum-vitae, the vital wood, or wood of life, which is found in the West Indies and some other parts of the tropical Americas, is said to be the hardest wood nature produces.

The reason why this wood is so tough is the arrangement of its fibers. Instead of being straight, they weave back and forth, crossing and recrossing, like the weave of an automobile tire. Another peculiar feature of this wood is that when the tree is cut, the sap cells fill up with a very heavy resin, which causes it to weigh about eighty pounds to the cubic foot. It is one-third heavier than water, and so, while excellent for many uses it would not make a good raft.

It is used for carpenter's mallets, as it is so tough that it will not split from hard usage, and it is also employed for tool handles.

Of the wood growing in this country the hickory is generally supposed to be the hardest, but for making mallets and other uses where great toughness is needed, it will not stand one-half as hard usage as does lignum-vitae.

Odd Properties Are Accorded Elder Tree

Most people know the common elder tree, but probably few realize that more attributes are accorded to this tree than to any other.

It is, for instance, a pretty safe refuge from flies and other insects, for they avoid it, while cattle refuse to eat its leaves. It is often found growing in churchyards, as it is supposed to be avoided by witches and ghosts.

Whatever its magical powers, the elder certainly has valuable medicinal properties, though whether the English villagers' belief that the leaves of an elder bush growing on a wall will cure fits is justified is open to doubt.

In some districts it is also believed that to stand near an elder tree during a thunderstorm gives certain immunity from being struck by lightning.

A fungus called "Jew's ear" often appears on the trunk of the elder tree, and this, too, has been supposed to be a cure for quinsy.

King's Mythical Sword

Excalibur is the name given the famous mystic sword of King Arthur, which he found inserted in a sheath of stone and pulled out, although 201 of his bravest knights had singly been unable to withdraw it. An inscription on the stone declared that whoever should succeed in unsheathing the sword would prove to be the rightful heir to the throne; and Arthur was accordingly chosen and proclaimed king by general acclamation. The sword was said to be so bright that "it gave light like thirty torches." Arthur, at the approach of death, commanded an attendant to cast the sword into a lake nearby, but the order had to be given three times before it was obeyed. As soon as the sword touched the water, a hand "clothed in white samite" appeared, caught it by the hilt, flourished it three times, and then sank beneath the waters of the lake. Tennyson has related this incident in "Morte d'Arthur."—Kansas City Star.

Lip Reading in Mills

A London police court was amazed by the ease with which a deaf mute was able to speak and hear, moving soundless lips in answer to the messages he read on the lips of those who spoke to him.

But this feat would not be considered remarkable in Lancashire, for the girls who work in the cotton mills have brought the art of conversing by lip language to a high degree of perfection.

It is impossible to carry on ordinary conversation in the hum and roar of the weaving sheds, but long practice has enabled the girls to converse quite easily across a long room filled with the deafening noise of machinery by watching each other's lips.

Romans Freed Slaves

The negro slaves of ancient Rome were gradually freed. The closing of the Roman conquest and the introduction of Christianity modified many of the regulations concerning slaves. Justinian was largely instrumental in mitigating their position and making it easier for them to obtain freedom. Slavery therefore, although practiced by the Teuton conquerors of Rome, was gradually replaced in medieval Europe by feudal vassalage.

Songs of Earthworms

Earthworms sing loudly enough to be heard 12 yards away, and their song frequently falls into a syncopated rhythm, startlingly reminiscent of jazz, reports a zoologist of Freiburg. In publishing his observations the investigator compares a worm's voice with the percussion of a tiny hammer on a very thin membrane. He intends pursuing his investigations further to learn the situation of the worm's vocal organ.

HOW ENGLISH DIVINES WORKED AT REVISION OF BIBLE.

In February, 1870, the convocation of Canterbury of the Church of England appointed a committee to consider the subject of revision of the English translation of the Bible. In the following May the committee reported to the effect "that convocation should nominate a body of its own members to undertake the work of revision, who should be at liberty to invite the co-operation of any eminent for scholarship, to whatever nation or religious body they may belong." This report was adopted. Such invitation was given and accepted. The Church of England initiated the work, but the work was the achievement of English-speaking Christendom as a whole.

The revision of the New Testament was completed in 407 meetings, distributed over more than ten years. The revision was finally presented to convocation on May 17, 1881. The revision of the Old Testament occupied 792 days, and was finished on June 20, 1884. The revised Apocrypha did not make its appearance until 1895.

The delegates of the Clarendon press in Oxford, and the syndics of the Pitt press in Cambridge, England, entered into a liberal arrangement with the revisers, by which the necessary funds were provided for all their expenses.

The revised version of the Bible is permitted to be used in churches, but it is not "authorized," that is, it has not replaced the authorized version of the reign of King James I.

How the Use of Glass Has Advanced in Years

The idea of the bottle started at the dawn of civilization. Then it was in the form of the goatskin container, but as civilization progressed a more durable and sanitary container became desirable. It is not known just when glassblowing started. Pieces of glass have been found, however, which are said to have been made 2,000 years before Christ. The first use of glass containers was for ornamental bottles and it is still used extensively for that purpose. It is claimed that when the first glass containers were produced they were looked upon with suspicion as being made with black magic. Thus, down through the ages, and until very recently, the making of glass has been hidden behind a veil of mystery. Today, however, its manufacture is as uniform and as definite as that of steel or lumber products.

How Bank Account Grew

Just before the Civil war ex-Senator Chauncey M. Depew, then a young man starting to carve out his fortune, deposited \$100 in a savings bank at Peekskill, N. Y., his home. That was the very first \$100 he earned. He thought about the money a good many times and more than once was sorely tempted when pressed for funds to draw it out, but he managed to get along without it.

Later he became increasingly prosperous and public and private affairs so occupied his time that he finally forgot all about his first deposit. Not long ago he visited the Peekskill bank and an official reminded him of it. The account was still on the bank's books and the original \$100 had grown to \$500.—Pathfinder Magazine.

How to Keep Plants

If you must leave home for a few days, do not take the trouble to carry the plants, the rubber and other plants into a neighbor's house to be cared for. Indeed you can leave them right at home and not worry about them at all.

Just collect as many common bricks as you have plants. Set these in the tubs and cover with water, but be sure the stopper is in place. Put each plant on a brick. The bricks will absorb the water in the tubs and the plants will draw up all the moisture they require, provided you have removed the saucers.

The plants will thrive and do nicely for many days under these conditions.

Snakes and Birds

Snakes do not charm birds in the understood sense of the word "charm." The instinctive fear that a small bird or animal, such as a rabbit, has for a snake paralyzes the muscles of the bird or the animal and prevents its escape from the snake.

Stuck

"Just my luck" moaned young De Slasheim. "My first case of surgery. Fattening a man's leg in a cast, and he turns out to be a plasterer, and does the work himself, and charges me \$7.50!"—American Legion Weekly.

Slayer Lightly Dealt With in Old Iceland

Divorce by arrangement is not so new an invention as one might suppose. "The Laxnaela Saga," the 1,000-year-old epic of Iceland which Thorstein Veblen has translated, sheds light not only on the quaint institution of the "divorce shirt," but on many other customs of the time which seem strangely modern, the Kansas City Star says.

Legal hair-splitting, for example, was common even then. Witness the technical distinction between manslaughter and murder. In the former case the slayer had only to cover the body and notify the next of kin and he went free, or at least with no heavier penalty than the payment of the wer-geld, the price of his man. But for murder the penalty was immediate exile and the criminal was declared a lawful victim for any one who found him in the country, a handy way of dispensing with the executioner.

Politics, dress, marriage customs, real estate deals and the introduction of Christianity, all figure in the authentic background of this romantic narrative. Its heroine is Gudrun, Iceland's most noted woman, whom three successive husbands failed to divert from her love for Kjartan, the poet-adventurer.

Hard Luck for Late Comers at Banquets

"The sugar lies on the bottom," is an old German saying, which is untrue in America, at least in that part of America as represented by some hotels. While waiting for a banquet to end, a reporter sat in the path of the waiters scurrying to and fro between the kitchen and the dining room. Toward the end of the meal the head waiter unexpectedly bore down upon a new underling and all but seized him by the back of the collar.

The astonished man, in his surprise, nearly split the dishes he was carrying. "Why, what's the matter?" he gasped, as he saw the gleam in the head waiter's eye. The other fairly stuttered with rage.

"You gave the best service in the kitchen to the man just come in. Don't you know that the late comers at a banquet always get the worst food?"—New York Evening World.

Shoe Carries a Load

Statisticians and investigators have combined to determine the strain and wear on shoes used by a man during the day, and their investigations brought out the fact that a man of 150 pounds, in ordinary activities, puts a weight each day on his shoes amounting to 815,000 tons. The shoes must withstand that terrible pounding and strain and give service for many months to be satisfactory. The man of 200 pounds would put on his footwear a strain and load one-third greater than the figures given, but the man of 250 and over would not increase the load proportionately to the increase in weight, because it is a dead pull, and less pounding, the heavyweight being less active than the lightweight men.—Ohio State Journal.

Wonderful Star

Equaling the radiation of 600,000 stars as bright as the sun, the S. Doradus, believed to be the most luminous star known, loses two and a half trillion tons of its mass a second, by its action of producing light, according to Prof. Harlow Shapley of the Harvard college observatory. The diameter of this giant of the skies is much greater than that of the earth's orbit, which is about 186,000 miles in length. The huge luminous body is classed with the stars known as variable, owing to their changing periods of maximum brilliancy. The report states it has been growing brighter for the past 29 years.

Falseness in Flattery

In order that all men may be taught to speak the truth, it is necessary that all likewise should learn to hear it; for no species of falseness is more frequent than flattery, to which the coward is betrayed by fear, the dependent by interest, and the friend by tenderness. Those who are neither servile nor timorous are yet desirous to bestow pleasure; and while unjust demands of praise continue to be made, there will always be some whom hope, fear, or kindness will dispose to pay them.—Samuel Johnson.

To Clean Flower Vases

Flower vases that have become stained from constant use may be cleaned just as water bottles are. Put potato parings into the vase with water enough to cover the stains and leave them overnight. A cleaning pad may be made by cutting a groove around a long stick near one end and tying a bit of cloth securely to it. The cloth should be doubled up so that it makes a round ball-like covering for the end. With this all sorts of ugly stains may be reached that would otherwise be inaccessible.

Cuban Diggers Find Many Relics of War

Havana.—Relics of Cuba's past are being constantly brought to light through exploration or preparation for new buildings.

In Macao park, now near the center of the city, but years ago some distance from the city walls, workmen uncovered a store of hand grenades and war material believed to have been buried about the time of the ten years' war in the '90s.

Repairs to the old Santa Clara convent, completed in 1848, brought discovery of a secret tunnel which led to a catacomb in which more than 100 skeletons were discovered.

Near Majagua a farmer discovered a lump of wax in a hollow tree. He cut it open and found inside a revolver perfectly preserved, gold-mounted and carved. It was of a model popular in the United States about 1865.

Mexico City Crimes Average 102 Per Day

Mexico City.—Barred from police headquarters because, they assert, their papers published the truth about crime in the capital in April and May, police reporters on the leading papers have devoted their efforts to outside investigation.

As a result, they claim to have proofs that, during the early days of May, the crime average reached 102 cases daily.

Investigation of records at the prosecuting attorney's office has disclosed, according to El Universal, that 30,000 cases are assigned annually to the penal courts. During the first trimester of 1924, it is stated, there were 2,287 cases of assault, resulting in injury, and 1,272 of robbery.

Statistics secured at the federal district penitentiary and the Belem and municipal jails, the same paper asserts, show that 70,914 persons were either detained or imprisoned in these institutions during 1924.

Ninety-five per cent of those held for infractions of the penal and civil codes, it is declared, go untried.

Honor in Nickname

From a very early period in its history Tennessee was called the "Volunteer State," because of the prominence of some of its sons in the early wars of the United States, and because the inhabitants of the state were always in the forefront of action. During the war with Mexico, when President Polk called for 2,800 soldiers from Tennessee, 30,000 volunteers promptly responded. It was at this time that Tennessee confirmed the title of Volunteer state.

Evil Spirit Scarers

No wonder the gateway of the Indian medicine man keeps the evil spirits away. The Flathead Indians, who inhabit the western slope of the Continental Divide in Glacier National park, built these grotesque "entrances" with the oddest of "nature's carvings" found on dead trees along the mountain sides. They form clusters of "scare-crow" figures that would make a white man's dog start those ominous notes announcing a funeral to be in the immediate neighborhood.

How Maxim Silencer Works

The National Rifle association says that a Maxim silencer works on the same principle as an auto muffler. The tube is screwed on the muzzle of the gun. This tube consists of a series of baffles that cause the gases to issue slowly instead of with a sudden rush. It is this rush of powdered gas from the muzzle of the gun which creates a vacuum, causing the report when discharged.

How Trees Grow

A popular belief seems to be that a scar on a tree trunk "grows upward with the tree." Such, of course, is not the case, says Nature Magazine. A blaze mark struck shoulder high by a trapper a hundred years ago will still be shoulder high today. A tree expands in girth with the seasons, but greater height is attained only by new growth at the top.

How to Care for Trees

Borers prefer weakened fruit and shade trees. To prevent injury by this class of insects, keep the trees strong and vigorous. Dead and dying trees should be cut down and burned.

Aviation Senses

Through the force of gravity an aviator can tell when he is at an altitude too great to see his surroundings. If he is flying upside down, he hangs in his belt, and if he is flying on the side, he will be pulled by this force to the side.

"ONLY CHILD" IS UNDER HANDICAP

Fated Not to Succeed Well in Life.

In a discussion of the "Influence of Early Environment on Personality," before the members of the New York Academy of Sciences, section of anthropology and psychology, Prof. William Ogburn of Columbia university presented the results of his research into one specific phase of the general subject, but added that some additional data were not quite ready for presentation.

Taking for granted that a repeated stimulus in the life of the child interests the personality of the child, Professor Ogburn expected to find some objective evidence of this factor in a study of family life. He therefore decided to study "the intelligence quotients" to see if they varied with the position of the child in its particular family; that is, to see in what manner the oldest child, the youngest child and "the only child" would be affected by the investigation.

He said that in this way he could study the emotional stability of the child, its achievement in school, and the teacher's estimate of the child's personality. His first consideration, he said, was to define the position of the child in its family, and in this procedure he used fifty different categories, which included differentiations according to age, taking a period of five years as the dividing line, and also considering differentiations according to sex. But the data in the matter of the sexes had not been completed, he added.

Selecting "Who's Who" as a criterion of success, Professor Ogburn said that by analyzing the data given here in reference to the position of the child in the family, he might compare his results with the statement of Doctor Brill and other psychoanalysts who claim that "the only child" does not succeed very well in life, that it tends rather to fall in the struggle for existence.

Three thousand names were selected at random, the professor stated, covering three separate lines of endeavor, namely, 1,000 artists, including painters, actors, musicians, authors; 1,000 scientists of all grades, and 1,000 of a more general classification, including statesmen, business men, journalists and others of "good mixing qualities." In these questionnaires, he said, the position of the individual in his family was requested, and there was no classification for females, since there were only a few listed. From the 1,700 replies received he endeavored to see whether a certain type of child appeared in the lists of "Who's Who," with the following results:

Of these families of "Who's Who" were found 577 individuals who were the oldest males in the family, each of whom had a brother less than five years younger, and all of them living; 342 of them were in "Who's Who," making a proportion of 59 out of 100. There were 368 of these who were the youngest children with a brother five years older; 155 of them were found in the lists of "Who's Who," representing 39 out of 100. Regarding intermediate children, that is, between the oldest and youngest, 729 were discovered and only 237 of them in "Who's Who." These results, Professor Ogburn concluded, seemed to favor the intelligence of the oldest child, with the youngest next and the intermediate child in last position. He found these data the most significant of the many categories.

Sting in It

Edward S. Harkness of New York, congratulated on his recent gift of \$1,000,000 to Yale, laughed and said: "Philanthropists never like to hear any allusions to their philanthropy. These allusions are always well meant but they are somehow apt to resemble the butler's speech more or less."

"A Lady Bountiful, famous for her charities, once declared to her butler that if the townspeople persisted in their design of building a garage right opposite her bedroom windows she would leave the town.

"That's what I told 'em, ma'am," said the butler excitedly. "I told 'em that at the town meetin'. And I asked 'em, ma'am, if they wanted to lose the goose what laid the golden eggs."

Cannibals Still Exist

Until the recent murder of the Canadian explorer, Charles Penrose, in New Guinea, by cannibals, the fact that man-eating humans still existed was not generally realized. This tragedy revealed authentic modern records of the cannibalistic tribes in the outreaches of civilization. In New Guinea they live in the extreme interior where the country is thickly forested and the tribes are difficult to locate. No traveler has dared to go too far into this interior although neighboring tribes have given out information on their less sociable neighbors.