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AUTHORITY

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This document is subject to special export controls and each transmittal to foreign governments or foreign nationals may be made only with prior approval of C. T. N. M. E. G. A. C. E. at the Office of the


(The Mechanism of Death by Lightning)
(Mecanisme de la Mort par la Foudre),

O. T. I. A. and at the Institute of Paramed. Sci., Inc., Budapest, Hungary)

The authors performed systematic examinations of 200 cases of terminal electricity. Mortality was 30%. The age of fatal victims ranged between 1 and 83 years. The proportion of the male and female sex was 64:36. 66 of the victims were struck in the open air and 21 inside of a building.

It was possible to note the deterioration of clothing caused by the lightning, signs of burning of clothes, and burning of the hairy system over a large surface of all lethal victims. On 95 of the lightning victims (40% of the cases) there was noted arteriosclerosis by typical figuration. On 95 victims no arteriosclerosis with figuration was noted. As regards the medical findings, in the majority of cases there were superficial attritions and extensive burns and second degree burn lesions. A smaller number showed secondary lesions which alone could have caused death. In 6 cases no signs of external lesions were found. At the time of autopsy no specific pathological alterations were found.

In 75 cases death was sudden, 7 of the accident victims died after one hour, 3 of the victims after 48 hours. The
Death by Lightning

Surviving victims presented the characteristic syndrome with the following components: disturbance of consciousness, paralysis of nerves and cutaneous arterioles. These symptoms were reversible and cleared in a few minutes or several hours. After 1-2 years no signs of any regressive symptoms were apparent.

Lightning causes practically no destruction on a living organism, the internal organs appear to be protected. The difference of the electric tension levels off on the superficial surface. The energy of the lightning has effect on numerous nerve receptors in the skin and causes circulatory disturbances, tissular hyperemia, and inhibition of the functioning of the nervous system. If changes involve centers of vital importance, the accident may become lethal.

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For Pr. T.K. Coleman

Translated by Efimian Boldyrev