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de la mort par la foudre. Acta Med. Leg. Soc., 1349,

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14/ NMS - Translated by 1204/

10/ C. Iranyi, Iranyi,
E. Somogyi and
B. Grovecz.

6/ ~~THE~~ LIGHTNING KILLS.

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

by
C. Iranyi et al
Institute of Forensic Medicine, Budapest, Hungary)

11/ 29 Aug 67

The authors performed systematic examinations of 100
trauma by
cases of ~~trauma~~ electricity. Mortality was 30%. The age
of fatal victims ranged between 1 and 83 years. The propor-
tion of the male and female sex was 61:25; 6% of the victims
were struck in the open air and 21 inside of a building.

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It was possible to note the deterioration of clothing
caused by the lightning, signs of fusion of articles and singe-
ing of the hairy system over a large surface of all lethal
victims. On 35 of the lightning victims (40% of the cases)
there was noted arteriosclerosis by typical calcification. On 55
victims no arteriosclerosis with calcification was noted. In re-
gard to the medical findings, in the majority of cases there
were superficial abrasions and extensive first and second
degree burn lesions. A smaller number showed secondary lesions
which alone could have caused death. In 8 cases no signs of
external lesions were found. At the time of autopsy no spe-
cific morphological 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

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Death by Lightning

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surviving victims presented the characteristic syndrome with the following components: disturbances of consciousness, paralysis of nerves and cutaneous arterization. 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, tissue hypoxia, and inhibition of the functioning of the nervous system. If changes involve centers of vital importance, the accident may become lethal.

-65b

8-29-67

For Dr. T.H. Coleman

Translated by William Boldyreff