

either injurious or beneficial, according to circumstances. Professor Olmstead, of North Carolina, has given an account in the American Journal of Science, of the removal of a paralytic affection by a stroke of lightning. The individual had been attacked with a paralytic affection in the face, which had chiefly settled in the eye. During a thunder-storm he was struck with lightning, and for a time lost his senses, and the use of his limbs ; but on the following day he was so far recovered that he was able to write an account of the accident, and had perfectly recovered his sight, though his hearing had been somewhat impaired.

It is not, perhaps, necessary that any other instances of death from the passage of atmospheric electricity through the animal body should be adduced ; but we can scarcely be permitted to omit a notice of the unfortunate accident which attended some experiments made by Professor Richman, of St. Petersburg, more particularly as it may serve to demonstrate the necessity of great care when we attempt to guide or control so mighty an agent as atmospheric electricity. The professor had erected an apparatus for the purpose of bringing atmospheric electricity into his study, wishing to make some experiments with it ; and, in order to prevent accident, he attached to his apparatus an instrument to measure the quantity of the electricity that was present. On the 9th of August, 1753, he was making some experiments with Mr. Solokow, when, stooping down to examine the instrument, he was struck on the head by the electricity, and was instantly killed. From an examination of the body, it appeared that the electricity entered the forehead, and, passing through the body, escaped from the left foot, the shoe being burst open. Mr. Solokow, his attendant, was much hurt, and the room injured, the doorcase being split half through, and the door torn from its hinges, and thrown to some distance.

The loss of life by atmospheric electricity has, in most instances, resulted from a want of care, either arising from ignorance or temerity. It is exceedingly unsafe to stand, during a thunder-storm, beneath a tall tree, or by the side of a lofty building ; and there are other precautions which a knowledge of the laws of electricity will suggest, and these should be attended to. But there are some persons who indulge a **fear**, during the presence of this phenomenon, as though God