In a previous article, I addressed myself to the subject of fears related to sex. In this article, I propose to deal with those fears, dreads, and aversions concerned with natural phenomena: the four basic elements of the ancients, the daily and seasonal cycles, atmospheric and meteorological phenomena, and astronomical phenomena.

The amount of error that has crept into the literature enumerating such fears is not inconsiderable. In my opening article, I cited the fact that two standard crossword puzzle dictionaries, Swanfeldt and Newman, both gave TROPHOBIA as a name for the fear of lightning, when such a word did not exist, the most plausible explanation of it being a decapitation of TONITROPHOBIA, the fear of thunder. There are quite a few other errors, which I must review before turning to legitimate terms.

In Sisson’s Word and Expression Locator (Parker Publishing Company, West Nyack, New York, 1966), ASTROPHOBIA is listed as the fear of lightning. It is a typographical error for ASTRAPHOBIA, because ASTROPHOBIA is the fear of stars. In the Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins by William and Mary Morris (Harper & Row, New York, 1962), ASTROPHOBIA is given as the fear of lightning. Again, this is a typographical error for ASTRAPHOBIA, because there is no such word as ASTROPHOBIA.

Sisson also gives ASTRAPHOBIA as a name for the fear of storms. Once again, this is merely an error for ASTROPHOBIA. The same source lists TONITROPHOBIA as the fear of thunder, but the word is merely a misspelling of TONITROPHOBIA.

The Dunlop Book of Facts, edited by Norris and Ross McWhirter (Dreghorn Publications, London, 1964) gives us ANCAPOPHOBIA as the fear of wind. This is another nonexistent term, apparently a garbling of the proper word, ANEMOPHOBIA.

One rather dubious word has been included in the list that follows: LILAPSOPHOBIA, the fear of hurricanes. It is taken from Reversions: A Medical Word Finder, by J. E. Schmidt (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1958). The word occurs in no other source with which it can be compared, and the source from which it is taken is of a very high quality, virtually free of errors. Yet, the fact remains that it is derived from Greek, and the Greek word for tempest, storm or hurricane is LAILAPS, not LILAPS.
Object or Situation Feared: Names of Phobias

Air: aerophobia, aiphobia, pneumatophobia
Air-borne influences: aerophobia
Air currents: aerophobia, aerophoby
Atmospheric phenomena: meteorophobia
Bad air: aerophobia
Celestial space: astraphobia, astrophobia
Clouds: nephophobia
Cold: cheimaphobia, cheimatophobia, psychrophobia
Comets: cometophobia
Cyclones: anemophobia
Dampness: hygrophobia
Darkness: achluophobia, noctiphobia, nyctophobia, scotophobia
Dark places: lygophobia
Dawn: cosophobia
Daybreak: cosophobia
Daylight: phengophobia
Drafts of air: aerophobia, anemophobia
Fire: pyrophobia
Flashlight of light: selaphobia
Floods: antlophobia
Fog: homichlophobia, nebulaphobia
Fresh air: aerophobia
Frost: cryophobia
Glare of light: photaugiaphobia, photaugiophobia
Gravity: barophobia
Heat: thermophobia
High temperatures: thermophobia
Humidity: hygrophobia
Hurricanes: anemophobia, lilapsophobia
Ice: cryophobia
Infinity: apeirophobia
Light: phengophobia, photophobia, photophoby
Lightning: astraphobia, astraphobia, bronophobia, keraunophobia, meteorophobia
Light places: photophobia
Meteors: meteorophobia
Moisture: hygrophobia
Night: noctiphobia, nyctophobia
Northern lights: auroraphobia
Rain: ombrophobia, ombrophoby
Red light: erythropobia
Sea swells: cymophobia
Shadows: sciaphobia, sciophobia
Sheets of water: potamophobia
Silence of night: nociphobia
Slime: blennophobia, myxophobia

With the chaff winnowed out, I now commend to the tender mercies of Word Ways readers the following list of natural terrors.
Snow: chionophobia
Stars: astraphobia, astrophobia, siderophobia
Storms: meteorophobia
Strong light: photophobia
Sun: heliophobia
Sunlight: heliophobia
Thunder: astraphobia, astrapophobia, brontophobia, keraunophobia, tonitrophobia, tonitruphobia
Thunderstorms: astraphobia, astrapophobia, brontophobia, keraunophobia
Tornadoes: lilapsophobia
Void: kenophobia
Water: hydrophobia, hydrophoby, hygrophobia
Weather phenomena: meteorophobia
Wind: aerophobia, anemophobia, pneumatophobia
Winter: cheimaphobia, chionophobia
Winter storms: cheimaphobia

The exact sources of the names and meanings included in the foregoing list are available upon request. Further sections of my file of phobias await future disclosure.

BOOKS FOR SCRABBLE PLAYERS

Although one of the most popular of American pastimes, Scrabble is a game about which few books have appeared. This situation has now been rectified by the appearance of two new books on the subject, one in England, the other in the United States. Darryl Francis is the author of Know the Game: Scrabble, one of a series of game books published by EP Publishing, Bradford Road, East Ardsley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF3 2JN, England. The book sells for 40 new pence (about $1) in England, but overseas postage may be extra. This 40-page softbound booklet contains a wealth of detail on both tactics and strategy, including an annotated game which shows the expert mind at work analyzing the various board positions. In this country, Selchow and Righter has published The Scrabble Players Handbook ($7.50), which covers much the same ground as Darryl’s book. Both belong on the bookshelf of the serious Scrabble fan.

THE WORD I can reach...

No! The Master, W.

I listened... Yet did I read...

I... be one word?

alembic, bundle of, chief, doubling, drug user, end, foam, force, freedom, grade of, herd, hottest,