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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BIG "HAILSTONES"

Things are not always what they seem, and a big lump of ice found on the ground after or during a hailstorm is not always a hailstone. Generally it is the result of a process called "regelation," which causes two or more hailstones lying closely packed together after falling to merge into a single mass. Sometimes it is something else.

Last August there was a tremendous hailstorm at Hartford, Connecticut, while the icy fusillade was at its height employees of business houses were standing in the shelter of doorways watching the particles rattle down on the pavement. A venturesome youth secured one the size of a hen's egg; which, of course, is nothing unheard-of. Presently he spied one bigger than a baseball, but still within the recognized limits of size. Running out to pick this up, he narrowly escaped being annihilated by a chunk of ice more than six inches in diameter.

This case does not establish a new world record for hailstone magnitude because the chunk in question came out of a water-cooler and not out of the sky. Practical jokers on an upper floor were amusing themselves at the expense of the people watching the hailstorm in the street below.

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