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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HAIL ODDITIES

A terrific hailstorm occurred at Dallas, Texas, on the afternoon of May 8, 1926. While the storm was at its height a druggist named Howard picked up three of the biggest hailstones and put them in his ice-cream refrigerator. A year later he still had them, though they had diminished about one-third in size, on account of frequent removal from the refrigerator and handling by the persons to whom they were exhibited. How much longer he kept them has not been recorded.

A case of explosive hailstones was reported some years ago by Prof. W. G. Brown, of the University of Missouri. He states that, on striking the windows, walls and pavement, the hailstones "exploded with a sharp report, so loud as to be mistaken for breaking windowpanes or pistol shots."

Red hail is not unknown. As in many cases of red rain and snow, the color is due to fine dust in the atmosphere, generally blown up from deserts.

A living sphinx moth once fell from aloft during a hailstorm with its legs firmly frozen to a hailstone.

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