

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
July 30, 1931

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed July 23, 1931

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MULTIPLE BALL LIGHTNING

Most people go through life without ever beholding a single example of ball lightning; few enjoy the privilege of seeing a dozen specimens at once, as in the following very interesting case reported to me by Dr. C. G. R. Jennings, of Glenora, N. Y.:

"Fifty years ago," writes Dr. Jennings, "when I was a medical student, I was walking home just at dusk during an evening of thunderstormy weather. The air was sultry and there were flashes of heat lightning on the horizon. When I came to what we called in New England the village 'green,' I saw a remarkable exhibition of what I assumed to be static electricity. There were some twelve or more round balls of luminescence bouncing around in the most undisciplined manner in all directions; some toward me and others in other directions. They would apparently strike the ground, then bounce up into the air in the lightest and most buoyant manner. They looked to be about the size of a football.

"What impressed me greatly was the fact that I had no feeling of fear about them, although some appeared to be headed ominously in my direction. It was already dark and they looked to be of a sort of violet color. I remember the phenomenon as vividly as if it had happened yesterday. I have never seen its duplicate before or since, although in my work as a doctor I have been out in all sorts of weather, night and day."

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