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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BASHFUL DUST DEVILS

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Apparently dust whirlwinds, known in the Middle East as "dust devils," dislike having their pictures taken. How otherwise can we explain the fact that although these whirligigs are exceedingly common on dry plains and deserts in many parts of the world, no photograph of one ever appeared in any scientific book or article until last October, when some views of one were published in the Dutch journal *Hemel en Dampkring*? These pictures were taken at Rotterdam last June.

Northwestern India is a celebrated haunt of dust devils. Hence I wrote some time ago to a friend in the Royal Air Force, Flight Lieut. Veryard, stationed at Peshawar, asking whether he could not get me some photographs of them, and these have just come to hand. They were taken near Quetta, Baluchistan. Lieut. Veryard writes: "It was not an easy matter by any means, and the Photographic Section had quite a hectic but nevertheless amusing job in securing 'snaps'."

The classic and almost unique drawings of dust devils are those published in 1860 by P. F. H. Baddeley, a retired surgeon of the Bengal Army, in a work entitled "Whirlwinds and Dust-Storms of India."

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