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Sun-balls! We have various kinds of snowballs caused by the wind which can easily be imagined. But snowballs caused by the sun are less plausible. It seems that after a prolonged cold spell, the sun shining on a slope of snow melts some of the surface grains of snow. This melting does not penetrate very deeply due to the cold snow and the cold, inclosed insulating air. The thawing snow grains become dense, and roll down hill, collecting more snow as they go. A nice, smooth, unblemished slope of snow is by this action left scarred by the trails of hundreds of "sun-balls." When sun-balls occur, the snow is then in a dangerous condition for avalanches.
