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Ice formation! One would naturally reason, since most substances contract upon growing colder, that the cold surface water of lakes and rivers would sink to the bottom, where ice would first form. But such, as everyone knows, is not the case. Water does contract upon growing colder if its temperature is above 39 degrees; below this temperature it expands as it cools. When the top layers have cooled to 39 degrees, there is no more settling and they solidify when the freezing point is reached. The ice is then only about nine-tenths as heavy as water.
