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Climatic fluctuations! The great climatic fluctuations of the past which brought about the ice ages and intervening warm periods were attributed to either astronomical causes or to changes in those factors which we know control climate today. Among the astronomical causes were change in the distances between the earth and sun, change in the slant of the earth's axis and change in amount of the sun's radiation. These are now considered invalid, and now the causes are supposed to be purely terrestrial; that is, for instance, changes in land elevation, distributions of land and water, in the circulations of atmosphere and oceans, and in different compositions of the air.
