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Air and sound! Everyone knows sound travels on the air; if there were no air we could not hear. If the air is disturbed too much, sounds ordinarily easily heard become inaudible. Two persons standing on opposite sides of a good camp fire can not easily hear one another. This is because the rapidly rising air over the fire disturbs the sound waves which are either absorbed or bent away from the hearer. Airplanes are heard with different degrees of distinctness in different parts of the sky. Similar phenomena are due to either stratified layers of air of different temperature or to rising and descending columns of air which either bend the sound waves or absorb them.
