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Atmosphere and vision! If air were absolutely quiet there would be no scintillation or twinkling of stars or planets. But atmosphere is never quite in that condition. There are always uneven layers of air always in motion as wind and in addition there are up and down currents, all of which produce twinkling of stars at night or a quivering of distant objects during the day. On warm summer days this quivering or shimmering is often markedly noticed, particularly in looking through the atmosphere over a heated surface, as a paved road. This condition is often called "optical haze", because the haze is not due to dust particles but to the air having different densities through which one is looking.
