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Mining the atmosphere! The atmosphere, as well as the bowels of the earth, furnishes materials for the use of man. The air itself (a composite gas) has many uses; as when used in pressure machinery and when reduced to a liquid form. Its two most common constituents, nitrogen and oxygen, are obtained in almost limitless quantities and are widely used commercially. Nitrogen, for instance, is used in filling electric lamps to prevent the glass bulbs from blackening, in making ammonia, dyes, fertilizers and explosives. Oxygen is used with acetylene or hydrogen, making a hot flame valuable in welding and cutting metals. It is used in medical and dental practices; wherever there is a deficiency as in the upper air; and it also has many other laboratory and commercial applications.