first seeing them, that the men had been discharging their excess energy by playing in the snow, and that the balls merely marked the beginning of a snow fort.

As I approached the parade ground, however, I noted, first, the absence of footprints in the snow; second, that the paths of the balls were in general parallel, and third, that the "balls" were rolled in one direction only, like cotton batting or a bundle of rugs, and that they were properly speaking "rolls" instead of "balls" So I was forced to the conclusion that they were the effect of the wind.

On questioning the old inhabitants of the Fort I learned that they were indeed wind-blown, and that such effects occurred not infrequently there.

The "balls" or "rolls" varied greatly in size. Some were over three feet in diameter, but the majority were smaller, about two feet. The largest one that I saw was about four feet in diameter and two feet thick.

They were all bi-concave. The paths in their wakes were triangular in shape, and varied greatly in length, depending of course on the size of the ball. The path of the large roll mentioned above was over fifty feet in length.

All the larger balls had fallen on one side, showing that size was not so much a matter of wind-power as it was of balance.

There were about three inches of soft snow on the ground, and the velocity of the wind was nearly cyclonic.

Karl M. Dallenbach
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A WALL-SIDE MIRAGE

To the Editor of Science: Dr. Knowlton's note on "An unusual mirage" in Science for October 3, suggests mention of a mirage on a vertical north-south wall, on Garden Street, Cambridge, when the warm afternoon sun shines on it in quiet weather. If the observer stands close to the plane of the wall, he can easily see a mirror-like reflection of the elbow or of the side profile of a person who is walking near the wall, fifty or a hundred feet away.

W. M. Davis

QUOTATIONS

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

The authorities of the British Association for the Advancement of Science have made known their satisfaction with the meeting at Bournemouth, which ended last Saturday. This judgment doubtless was determined by the old standard, which, even before the war, was neither high nor rising. A warm welcome from the beautiful town, convenient arrangements for the meetings, summer weather, and nearly 1,500 members, including quite a number of scientific men, plenty of attractive subjects dealt with by speakers who "drew," and excursions with a decent scientific pretext—such were the materials that produced success. It is to be noticed that they would have suited the requirements of almost any kind of congress. It is more difficult to distinguish in them the "differentia" of a meeting for the advancement of science. Where revelations of the secrets of the war had been promised, there the visitors thronged. The vast growth of naval engines and armaments, hydrophones in fish-like cases, paravanes, sound ranging devices, airships and aeroplanes, tanks and submarine mines, poison gas and high explosives, excited and delighted the members of the British Association precisely as they would have excited and delighted the general public. There was a refrain of the achievements of British men of science, as opposed to the vaunted science of Germany, but there was very little of detailed scientific statement or discussion of methods. Almost equally popular were the items in the Educational Section. Sir Robert Blair on continuation schools, Bishop Welldon on citizenship, General Baden-Powell on the Boy Scout movement, other speakers on the advantages of private schools or the benefits of a sound knowledge of English, received and deserved attention. In mentioning a few other examples of the subjects that attracted large audiences we throw no doubt on the value of knowledge on the political bearings of international rivers, the use of hypnotism in treating shell-shock, or whether or not the working day should be