1033. RAIN.—Rain is water taken up by the air in the form of vapor and returned to the earth in drops.

When two masses of damp air differing considerably in temperature are mingled, they become incapable of retaining the same amount of moisture which they held while they remained apart. The excess is precipitated in the form of rain, the vesicles of vapor under the influence of mutual attraction blending together and forming drops.

Some parts of the earth never have any rain, vegetation, when it exists at all, being supported entirely by dew. This is the case with Peru, the Desert of Sahara, portions of Arabia and Egypt, and extensive districts in Central Asia. In other parts, for example Guiana, it rains almost constantly. The Island of Chiloe has a rather moist climate; the people there have a current saying, that it rains six days in the week and is cloudy the seventh.

1034. Snow.—Snow consists of the watery particles of the atmosphere frozen for the most part in a crystalline form.

Viewed through a microscope, snow-flakes exhibit forms of great beauty and endless variety. Between six and seven hundred different forms have been distinguished, many of them belonging to the six-sided system of crystals.

Snow of a beautiful crimson color and a delicate green has been found in different parts of the world. These tints are due to minute plants or animal-cules in different stages of development.

1035. Hair.—Hail consists of globules of ice formed in the atmosphere by the congelation of its moisture and precipitated to the earth.'

Hail is produced by an intense degree of cold in the atmosphere, and is generally accompanied with electrical phenomena. It is rare at the level of the sea within the tropics, and in high latitudes is totally unknown, being most abundant in temperate climates. Hail-storms seldom continue a quarter of an hour, but while they last large quantities of ice fall. The stones are generally pear-shaped, and frequently weigh ten or twelve ounces. Masses weighing 6, 8, and even 14 pounds, have been known to fall.

tation show the goodness of Providence? 1032. What is Frost? 1033. What is Rain? How is rain formed? What parts of the earth never have any rain? Where does it rain almost constantly? 1034. Of what does Snow consist? What is the form of snow-flakes? Of what color has snow sometimes been found? How is this accounted for? 1035. Of what does Hail consist? How is it produced? Where is it most frequent? What is the shape of hail-stones? How large have they been known to fall?

## FIGURES.

For the convenience of the pupil during recitation, the Figures to which reference is made by letters are here reproduced. The numbers correspond with those of the text.









































