Snow has been sometimes observed to take, in the polar regions, a red or orange colour. This appearance is supposed by some persons to arise from the presence of mineral substances in the condensed vapour, or rather the frozen water, while others suppose it to arise from the presence of animal or vegetable matter.

Snow-storms sometimes present a luminous appearance. This singular phenomenon has been frequently observed, and we have one very remarkable instance on record. It was seen in the year 1813, by a party of gentlemen on Loch Awe, in Argyleshire, and it not only gave to the surrounding scenery the appearance of an immense sheet of fire, but illuminated the persons of the individuals who composed the party.

Natural snowballs are sometimes formed by the passage of a high wind over the surface of the fallen snow. When once formed, their size rapidly increases by a continued motion; for, as they roll along, they collect, and sometimes attain a considerable size. Mr. Sherriff states that in February, 1830, he observed many of these balls in East Lothian, some of which were a foot and a half in diameter. They were produced by a westerly wind, and had left their track impressed upon the snow. In one village much exposed to the west they were exceedingly numerous.

We can scarcely avoid a remark, which may appear to be little, if at all, connected with an explanation of the fall of snow, though it cannot fail to assist in the proof of a statement already made, that electricity is always developed by atmospheric changes. Snow is universally in an electrified state, and, as far as our own observations have extended, generally positive, but the condition is changed by liquefaction. There are many persons who entertain a skeptical notion of the universal influence of electricity, and in the present uncertain state of the science, so far, at least, as regards the condition of the atmosphere, and the causes which influence it, they need not be at a loss for arguments to support their opinions. But when we discover that so simple a process as that of congelation cannot be carried on without the development of the agent which in other states produces some of the most awful phenomena we behold above and around us, there can be nothing very absurd in the supposition that it may have something to do with many, if not