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### THE CURVING OF A BASEBALL.

It is Possible Only Because the Ball is an Imperfect Globe and in Comparison With Its Size Much Rougher Than the Surface of the Earth.

The real reason why a baseball can be thrown so that it will describe wonderful curves during its progress through the air is that every such ball has a surface made up of mountains, valleys, craters, canyons, gorges, plains and other irregularities of the surface that, when the difference in size is taken into consideration, makes the surface of the earth seem like plate glass.

If it were possible to make a perfect sphere—if it were possible to make a baseball with an absolutely smooth surface and an exact sphere—no pitcher in the world could make it curve. The very best pitchers baseball has ever known or probably ever will know could not make the ball deviate a hair's breadth in its flight.

And so while it is partly in the art or knack the professional pitcher has in holding and releasing the baseball as he throws it, it is also due to the fact that a baseball has a wonderfully rough surface against which the air catches and turns it that gives it the curve.

If you pass your hand over a plate glass it moves smoothly with nothing to retard it. If you pass your hand over an unplanned board you can feel the roughness—splinters we call them. You cannot move your hand as easily over the board. This is the same principle with the baseball. There is a roughness in its surface that catches in the air and forces one side about or retards that side. This has but one result—to make the baseball leave its straight course, and in doing this it describes a curve.

This does not detract in the least from the cleverness of the pitcher who can so accurately judge his muscular control as to make a baseball curve up or down, right or left. But the fact remains that it is the roughness of the baseball that makes all his pitching cleverness possible.

Take a brand new league ball in your hand. It looks to be a perfect sphere—that is, absolutely even and uniformly round and as "smooth as glass." And it may be as smooth as glass, for glass also has a rough surface.

Put a baseball under the most powerful microscope, enlarge it microscopically 10,000 diameters, and what do you see? The very thing mentioned in the first paragraph of this article. The surface is rough. It looks like the landscape in the Alps or Yellowstone park or any other rough section of the earth. It has peaks, ranges, ridges, valleys, plains and holes, gulches and all sorts of uneven places, and if the earth could be made as small as a baseball it would be practically a perfect sphere and absolutely smooth. This is because the highest mountains of the earth and the deepest valleys would be millions upon millions of times smaller in comparison with the rough uneven places on a baseball if either the earth were reduced to the size of a baseball or a baseball enlarged to the size of the earth.

If this were not true the earth would not revolve so regularly upon its axis. It would perform an "in shoot" or "out shoot" and curve off through space.

Even the billiard ball has a surface much rougher in comparison to its size than the surface of the earth, and we refer to a billiard ball as about the smoothest thing known. "As smooth as a billiard ball" is a well known simile. For the same reason that a perfectly smooth baseball could not be curved, a perfectly smooth and perfectly round billiard ball could not be made to curve on the table. It would not take "English," as billiard players call it when they make a ball go forward and then roll backward or in any direction just by the manner in which they strike it with a chalked cue.

This fact of roughness causing it to spin becomes all too evident when a player forgets to chalk his cue and plays several shots thereafter. If the leather tip of the cue becomes shiny it will slip on the ball. There is no purchase with which it can take hold. But chalk is sticky stuff, and the granules are large, so that a well chalked cue has a very rough surface, and this rough surface of the tip of the cue fits into the rough projections on the ball, and thereby a ball can be given a lot of twist. In order to accomplish this successfully, moreover, the billiard cloth nap must be new and therefore rough.

During recent experimentation with regard to the kinetic theory of gases a Belgian scientist desired to find out how perfect a sphere could be made in order that by the clashing of these together an idea might be secured of the effect of the collisions of the spherical atoms that make up a gas. The project had to be abandoned at last because no machinery could be constructed that would turn out a perfect sphere artificially, and nature has no perfect sphere of large size in all her many forms of matter. Perfect disks could be made, but a round ball was beyond the limits of human accomplishment.—New York American.

A Pair of Whys.

She (coming down late)—Why do you wear that yachting cap? You are never on a yacht. He—Why do you wear that watch? You are never on time.

Their Life is a Fizzle.

Some people are so afraid of making mistakes they never do anything. They fear to take a stand on any question of right and wrong. Such a man recently died back East and one of his neighbors is reported to have said of him: "Well, I calculate Jim's life was just about as complete a fizzle as you could find anywhere. He was neither for nor against. He spent his whole life in holding his hands and trying not to make a mistake. Consequence was, he never did anything right or worth doing. Poor old Jim."

No Exaggeration.

"You told me you were worth a million, and I find that you have only a paltry \$10,000," said Blathers' partner. "Well, \$10,000 is 1,000,000 cents," said Blathers.—Harper's Weekly.

Very Scornful.

"Our waiters must say 'Thank you, even when the tip is small.' 'That rule does not prevent them from showing their scorn, my friend. Some of your waiters can say it with seven different inflections.'—Pittsburg Post.

Poor Comedy.

"Why did she cut you?" "She doesn't like my comedy." "How's that?" "She made the statement at a party last night that she was twenty years of age, and I said, 'Yes, I knew that fifteen years ago.'—Houston Post.

Occupational.

The young woman store detective when proposed to was silent.

"Then you cannot be the sunshine of my life," said the young man in disappointed tones.

"How can I?" she answered. "I am a professional shadow."—New York Post.

Perfectly Logical.

She—You once said you would die for me, and now you refuse to get up and light the fire. He—That's perfectly logical. If I died for you I'd be done with it, but if I get up once and light the fire you'll want me to do it every morning.—Boston Transcript.

Disappointed in Love.

"What's wrong with that melancholy man you were talking to just now?" "He has been disappointed in love." "Too bad! Did some other fellow get the girl?" "No, he got the girl, but she won't support him."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

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Statement of the Ownership

Management, circulation, etc., of The Silverton Journal, published weekly at Silverton, Oregon, required by the Act of August 24, 1912.

Editor—J. E. Hosmer, Silverton, Ore.

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Publisher—J. E. Hosmer, Silverton, Ore.

Owner—J. E. Hosmer, Silverton, Ore.

Signature of editor, publisher, business manager or owner—J. E. Hosmer.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of July, 1913.

Geo. W. Hubbs,  
Notary Public for Oregon.  
My commission expires March 31, 1915.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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The faculty, numbering eighteen members, is chosen for the expressed purpose of training teachers for the public schools, and directs its entire energy upon this one thing.

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The several departments offer every form of work required in the public schools, including Supervision and School Management and Domestic Science and Domestic Art. A well-equipped gymnasium and athletic grounds furnish

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EQUIPMENT—

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TRAINING SCHOOL—

The Normal maintains a complete system of training schools from the first to the eighth grade inclusive, and it is in charge of skillful and professionally trained teachers.

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For further information with regard to the school address

PRESIDENT J. H. ACKERMAN,  
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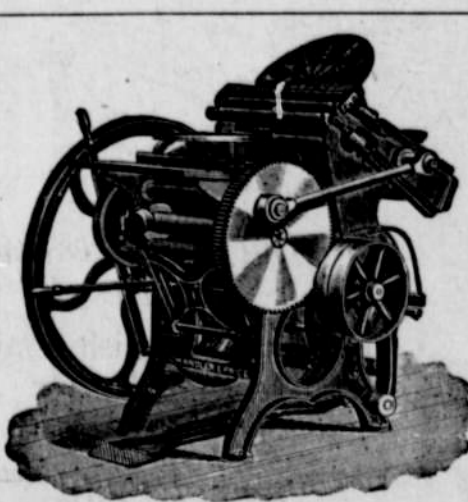


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