Cold Weather

"Some good, old-fashioned winter, believe me," said Miss Connelly, gayly, as she bounced into the cloak room. "Anybody that's collectin' this kind of weather can have all that's comin' to me and no questions asked."

She threw her muff at Miss Hoffman and her fur collar at Miss Larson and laid two icy fingers on the back of Miss Frizkie's neck. Miss Frizkie squirmed out of reach.

"You're terribly nervous, Frizzie," said Miss Connelly. "You ought to take something for it."

"I'm more likely to hand out something," rejoined Miss Frizkie, with justifiable indignation.

Miss Connelly winked at Miss Hoffman, who promptly collapsed in an attack of the giggles. "Pretty smart for you, Frizzie," said Miss Connelly. "Look at what you done to little Hoffy. Some of them wheezes of hers is going to strike in some day.

"I wish you girls could see ma," she went on after a moment. "You never did see any person hate the cold the way ma does. The first night I breezed in out of that north wind ma was settin' just as close to the kitchen stove as she could set.

"'Forevermore, ma,' I says, puttin' my hand on the back of her neck, like I done to Frizzie just now, 'why don't you get into the stove?'

"'I would,' says ma, 'if the door was big enough.'

"Say, it always tickles me to death to see ma get peevish, so I went to the door and flung it open. 'Gee,' I says, 'but it's close in here!'

"'Nell Connelly,' yells ma, 'shut that door this minute, or I'll take my slipper to you.'

"I didn't move fast enough to suit her, so she jumped at the door and slammed it shut and I really thought she was going to hand me one on the side of my head, she was so mad."

"'Well, she says, 'I never thought to live to be the mother of a goose,' she says, 'though it ain't a word that I care to use, me bein' a lady. It don't run in my family,' she says. 'I always did say you took after your pa's folks.'

"The next morning, when I came down to breakfast, ma was shaking so with the cold that she was makin' the dishes rattle on the shelves. I was doin' a shiverin' act myself, but I wasn't in the same class with ma.

"My teeth was chatterin' so I could hardly talk, but I says, as steady as I could: 'My, ain't it oppressive this mornin', ma? What do you say to havin' cold boiled ham, lemonade and ice cream for supper tonight?' I says.

"I couldn't get a word out of ma that night when I come home from work. I don't know's I ever seen her so sore before. After supper my kid brother and sister got to scrappin' and, bless Pete, if they didn't break the window! Ma give 'em just one look and then she beat into her bedroom and locked the door, and not one of us set eyes on her again that night.

"The next night when I blew in there was my kid sister gettin' supper.

"'Where's ma?' I says.

"'Gone to bed,' says the kid.

"It gave me an awful jolt. I'd never knowed ma to go to bed in the daytime since I'd been acquainted with her.

"'She ain't sick, is she?' I says.

"'She's actin' awful funny,' the kid says. 'I can't tell whether she's sick or not. You better go in and talk to her.'

"Well, I went into ma's room and there she was in bed with a hot water bottle on each side of her, about seven blankets and three comforters on top of her and my kid sister's cap that she wears to school pulled over her face.

"'Why, ma,' I says, 'what's the matter? Are you sick?'

"'I s'pose you might call it bein' sick,' she barks. 'I know I'm sick and tired of this here weather and I ain't goin' to countenance it another minute.' Ma knows some swell words, believe me. She's got a grand education.

"'Well,' I says to ma, 'I guess stayin' in bed's the best thing you can do,' I says. 'I'll fetch you in some supper and some hot coffee and then maybe you'll feel better.'

"'You let me alone,' says ma. 'You needn't bring me nothin' to eat. Do you think I'm going to sit up and eat it? You bet your life I won't.'

"On the square, I begun to think she'd gone dippy. She didn't act no more like ma usually does than nothin'. 'Oh, come out of it, ma,' I says.

"'You bet I won't come out of it,' ma says. 'I'm going to stay right in it till spring. And, what's more,' she says, 'I ain't goin' to wash my face till the temperature gets above freezing, and before I come to bed I did my hair up to stay till the Fourth of July. Now, beat it,' says ma."

"My, I should think she'd get awful tired of it," said Miss Larson, anxiously. "Do you really think she will stay there in bed?"

"Sure she will," replied Miss Connelly, winking cheerfully at the other six. 'Ma takes after me and George Washington. She never told a lie."—Chicago Daily News.

EASILY MADE HOTBED

Many Little Details Go Far Towards Making Success.

Much Care Is Necessary in Preparing Soil—No Set Rule Can Be Applied to Manure on Account of Its Composition.

(By JOSEPHINE DEMAR.)

At the very first stirring of the sap comes to most of us a longing to see Dame Nature awake and go about her spring business. We eagerly look for the first signs of life in the maples and in the sheltered recesses of the woods under the dead leaves.

When I feel the first hint of spring I start my hotbed. This I fashioned out of an old glass cupboard door, some old boards, a saw, hammer and nails. Critics may find fault with it but as it has been a decided success I do not mind the verdict of the critics. Utility, not beauty, is my aim.

The glass cover had done duty as a cupboard door for many years and when the house was remodeled it was consigned to the attic until it was pressed into its present state of usefulness.

The frame measures 22 inches high at the back and slopes down the sides to the front to 12 inches; the glass frame is fastened to the back with hinges. An excavation was dug and the frame placed upon it. The excavation is eight or ten inches deeper than the frame, and the frame stands 12 inches above the soil at the back, and the front five inches. A stout stake was driven in the four corners of the frame to support it.

The bed is located south of the summer kitchen, a well-drained spot where it will get the sun all day.

The earth is banked around the frame and a ditch carries all the surface water away. In the meantime the heat material was prepared. This was horse-manure gathered from the stalls each day and put in a cone-shaped pile.

One-third leaves were added to assist the manure to "sweeten." Manure alone is too dense and will not ferment properly unless leaves, straw or some sort of litter is added.

As soon as the pile looked large enough to fill the frame it was allowed to ferment evenly. When the mass was moist and steaming it was put into the hotbed.

It is impossible to give any hard and fast rule in preparing manure for the hotbeds, for so much depends upon the composition and texture of the manure and the state of the weather.

It is safe to say, however, that the pile must be worked over several times and when it is moist and warm it is ready for the frame.

In the bottom of the excavation I always place a thin layer of cornstalks cut a foot long, for protection against the cold earth. When the manure is put in it nearly reaches the top of the soil; then it is well tamped, and after tamping, it should reach within ten inches of the top of the frame in front.

As a usual thing eight inches of thoroughly prepared manure will heat a spring hotbed. The bed is then covered with the glass door and left to itself for a few days.

Then five inches of fine, rich, well-prepared soil is added; again the cover let down and the bed allowed to heat, a thermometer placed in it and when it registers 85 degrees the seeds are sown.

The amateur will want to sow seeds when the bed is entirely too hot, but make haste slowly is a good policy in this case.

Before sowing the seeds rake the soil to destroy the weed-seeds which have sprouted. Sow such seeds as tomato, cabbage, lettuce, peppers, etc., but be sure to reserve several rows for your flower-seeds. Make the rows run north and south. Water the bed with a sprinkler having a very fine nozzle.

The little seedlings are very delicate and care must be taken not to bake, starve or chill them. Too much heat is worse than too little, therefore, it is necessary to air the hotbed by opening the frame when the sun shines and the weather is warm.

Water with a fine hose when the soil looks light in color and is dry to the touch. Thin out the plants if they stand too thickly in the row.

When the plants have attained two or three true leaves they must be transplanted into a cold frame. This I made with the twin cupboard door, and contains no heating material, and the frame put on the top of the ground.

The earth should be banked all around the frame and during cold days and nights both the hot and cold frame were covered with board shutters, and carpet thrown on top for further protection.

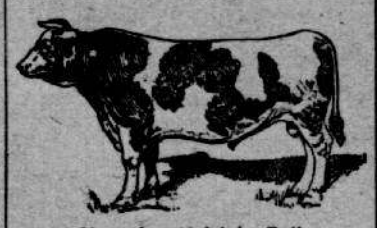
After the hotbed has been emptied into the cold frame it may be used to grow another crop of seedlings. The hotbed is also a good place to start cuttings. Slip the cuttings, place them in a dish containing sand which should be kept as wet as mud, and the slips will grow in a short time.

DIVERSIFICATION IN SOUTH

Farmer Who Raises All His Own Supplies Can Market His Cotton When Prices Suit Him.

The cotton grower who diversifies his farming, at least to the extent of rendering himself independent of outside source of supply for all of the grains, fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy products consumed on his farm, says W. W. Finley, president of the Southern railway, is enabled to market his cotton when there is an economic demand for it.

He is not compelled to sell regardless of market conditions, as has so often been the case, under the necessity of meeting obligations incurred for foodstuffs and other necessaries of life by reason of failure to produce them on his farm.



Champion Holstein Bull.

The cotton farmer is, of course, in a still more advantageous position if he carries diversification to the extent of having something besides cotton for sale. It is particularly desirable that the farmer should have a steady source of income throughout the year.

The local demand throughout the south for dairy products, poultry and eggs is such as to enable the farmer who produces a surplus of the commodities to have a weekly income throughout the year sufficient to meet his bills with local merchants, and a regular income such as this, even though the amount received per week may be small, will go far in assisting him to market his cotton when there is an economic demand for it.

Utility of Cement Fence Posts.

Farmers are now beginning to make cement fence posts quite extensively in some localities. They seem to be a success when properly made, and they are not expensive, especially when they are made on the farm on rainy days or at odd times when work is not pressing. Once they are made and in the ground they are there to stay, perhaps one hundred years.

ANGORA GOATS ARE PROFITABLE ANIMALS

Angora Buck and Does.

The fleece of the Angora goat, known on the market as mohair, will sell at 50 cents to $2 a pound. The price depends upon the length, fineness, and amount of coarse hair. The average amount of mohair varies from about five to fourteen pounds a head.

The United States has the reputation of producing the best quality of mohair. It is used to make plush carpets, chair seats, braids, curtains and many articles of women's clothing.

The original home of the Angora goat is in the village of Angora, in Asia Minor.

The Angora goat was introduced into the United States in 1849, when the sultan of Turkey presented nine of his choicest goats to President Polk.

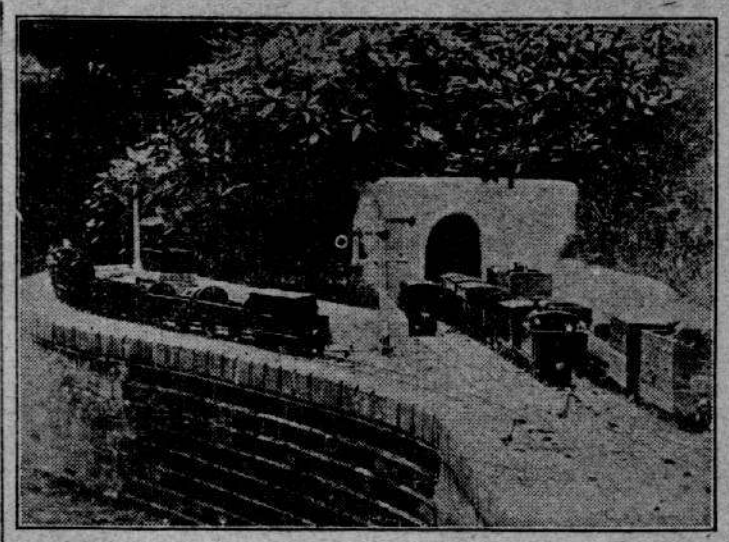
Angora goats will adapt themselves to almost any climatic condition, being found from New Mexico to the New England states. Texas and New Mexico produce the greater amount of the American output, but small flocks are found in many parts of the Mississippi valley.

Goats are long lived and are very prolific breeders at the age of one year. They are natural browsers, and often live off twigs and brush.

The fleece should be pure white, and the staple from ten to twelve inches long and very dense. As many as 5,000 fibers are found on a square inch

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Railways in Miniature



The building of miniature railways in gardens has become quite a fad in England. Our photograph shows a remarkable example, at Sheffield, which has a tunnel 25 feet long, equipped with signals and everything else a railroad should have. Another built at Norwich by a retired army officer has 600 feet of track, four stations, three bridges, two tunnels and forty cars and locomotives.

DIAMOND CLEAVING

The art of lapidary is one of the most delicate employments of mechanical force known. The practical diamond cutter learns many facts about precious stones which are sealed books even to mineralogists.

For instance, it is the lapidaries who have found out that diamonds coming from the different districts vary remarkably in their degrees of hardness. It appears that the hardest diamonds come from New South Wales. An unfamiliar fact is that diamonds are made to assume approximately the required shape by slitting and cleaving and by "bruting," which is the rubbing of one diamond against another, before they are submitted to the polishing wheel. In cleaving the diamond is cemented on the end of a wooden stick, and a steel blade is driven with a smart blow in the direction of the natural plane of cleavage. Diamonds that have been cut by the lapidary's wheel lack some of the brilliance possesed by those that have simply been cleaved.

ANCIENT MANCHURIAN TOWER

One of the interesting objects recently revealed to occidental eyes in Manchuria is this ancient tower, which stands near the city of Chang-Ching. The upper and lower parts are defaced by time and weather, but elaborate carvings to be seen on the mid-portion.

BURN STACK OF PROPOSALS

A small roomful of letters, each one containing some bachelor's yearning plea for a mate, were burned the other at Santa Monica, Cal., by order of the mayor's advisory council of women. Thus ended a matrimonial flurry which was started accidentally, when it became known that there were fifty widows in Santa Monica who held the balance of power politically. The story of the ascendency of the widows in Santa Monica reached the ears of the Oatman Bachelor's club of Oatman, Ariz., which at once forwarded a proposal to marry the fifty. Lonely bachelors elsewhere hastened to enter their offers, and finally letters began arriving by hundreds. All the letters were stacked in a storeroom, and all destroyed without even having been brought to the notice of any mateless woman.

WIND TO PREVENT FROST

To the long list of the means heretofore proposed of protecting fields, orchards and vineyards against frost a new one has recently been added by a French scientist. He points out the fact that frosts are not feared when the wind blows; he is thus led to suggest the creation of artificial wind by the installation of electric fans among the plants to be protected. He considers this plan applicable chiefly to vineyards, but also possibly useful in orchards.

CHINESE SEAWEED AS FOOD.

Freer commercial contact with China may quite possibly introduce into our table menus varieties of spicy concoctions from seaweed. About 130 nutritive kinds of seaweed are in daily consumption in the far east and the cultivation of seaweed crops is regularly maintained. More than $600,000 worth of one preparation alone is consumed every year in China in the form of dried gums which can be liquefied into delicate jellies. In Europe seaweed has not been at all considerably used for food, though blancmanges, salads, green vegetables and a sort of tapioca fluid have been forms in which Scotch, Irish and Mediterranean peasants have partaken of the substances of seaweed. In certain parts of Japan seaweed is subjected to careful cultivation, competing species being suppressed and rocks previously planted with the weed, being sunk in suitable bays.

AFRICANS WHO EAT CLAY

Natives of West Africa, in French Sudan, practice "geophagy." Although the practice is common in many parts of the world, this particular case is remarkable for the systematic way in which the dirt is collected, and for the fact that it occurs in a well cultivated region, where food is abundant. The earth consumed is a clay, which is found intercalated among the grits of the region in beds of various thickness. The deeper layers are preferred and for this reason the natives dig galleries, which are so crudely constructed that falls of earth frequently occur, sometimes with fatal results. When an unlucky miner is thus buried no attempt is made to rescue him, as it is believed that the divinities of the mines require an annual victim. It is stated that individuals not infrequently consume seven and a half pounds of clay daily.

HOARDED GOLD IN CHINA

Sales of gold have undoubtedly been made by the Chinese authorities and from cables which are now coming to hand from China it would seem that there is some prospect of the movement assuming rather large proportions. No one has ever known the extent of the hoarded wealth of the late Empress Dowager, though all kinds of rumors have been current as to the accumulation of colossal sums. Now that by reason of the present disturbed condition of the country the meeting of the interest charge on the debt must impose considerable strain it would certainly not be surprising if sales were effected of some of the hoarded gold if only with the object of facilitating the prompt payment of the coupons on the foreign debt, a matter concerning which the Chinese government has always displayed scrupulous care.

MAKING A NEW WORLD.

The planet Jupiter, whose volume is 1,279 times that of the earth, and superior in dimensions and weight to all the other planets put together, is just now attracting the attention of astronomers. M. Giacobini of the Paris observatory, who has made a special study of Jupiter, has described a red spot which possesses a relative fixity, but within the last year its mobility has increased to great proportions, and its longitude by about 30 degrees. That is all that we can say scientifically. Is it really the formation of a new continent? Can we draw this deduction from this phenomenon so difficult to seize? It is possible, but who can say so with certainty? M. Camille Flammarion, however, expresses himself with far greater confidence in this matter: "We are assisting at the creation of a world. Under our dazzled eyes a new world is being created in the infinity and in Jupiter we hail the world of the future."

NERVES OF FISHES.

After a study of "The Effects of Explosive Sounds, Such as Those Produced by Motor-boats and Guns, upon Fishes," Dr. G. H. Parker, professor of zoology at Harvard, has reported to the United States bureau of fisheries. He says his investigation leads him to believe "that artificial noises, if appropriate in character, might attract fishes, for sound, even when disagreeable, to the human ear, is not of necessity always disturbing to fishes, and might even serve as a lure," and reports these general conclusions: "The sounds produced by motor-boats are extremely faint under water, and have little influence on the movements and feeding of fishes."

DRIVES A MOTOR CAR AT 94

One of the most enthusiastic motor car drivers of Bridgetown, Ind., is Elijah Cahill, 94 years old and the father of 19 children all of whom has outlived. He is often to be seen spinning over the country roads, but he never attempts a speed of more than thirty miles an hour.

BRIDGE LIKE AN "X."

In Zanesville, O., there has been a "Y" shaped bridge in use for a long time, and now the proposition of erecting an "X" shaped bridge over the Seine is being considered. As a matter of fact, the idea has been practically adopted, the only difficulty being the lack of money, and if this is successfully looked after the bridge will be built. One great advantage of such a structure is the fact that one pier in the middle of the stream supports both structures, while if two bridges were built the difficulties of navigating the stream would be increased.

COMPRESSED FLOUR

Experiments in compressing flour show that its keeping qualities are prolonged almost indefinitely by the process. Its bulk is decreased by one-third.

Memorial of Roman Pillars

The memorial here pictured was erected in Tripoli over the grave of some Italian soldiers which was dug in a Roman cemetery. The shattered columns of Imperial Rome therefore have been used again by invading Romans, this time as a monument to their dea