



Winter Garments

FASHIONABLE ladies, who insist on one set of furs for summer wear and another for winter, have nothing on a whole series of their lesser cousins in the woods. There are many mammals and birds that with the onset of winter change color so radically that one would take the two phases of the animal to be two quite distinct species if one were not in on the secret. Animals or birds that are brown or dark gray in the summer become snow-white in the winter.

This shift from ground-color to snow-color is declared by naturalists to be the original, untaught camouflage whereby animals like the Arctic hare and the ptarmigan seek to avoid their enemies, and others, like the Arctic fox, seek to creep up on their prey unobserved. When it is found in animals that usually play the role of the hunter it is called "concealing coloration"; when in animals that are commonly the hunted it is known as "protective coloration." It seems to be a game that works both ways. And presumably there are small beasts of prey that might themselves become the prey of larger carnivores; in their case the camouflage might conceivably have a double usefulness.

Just what to make of the polar bear, under this scheme of things, is not easy to determine at first. Here is an animal beautifully provided with concealing coloration in the winter, but because he obstinately keeps his winter coat all summer it looks as though he would be unprofitably conspicuous when the Arctic sun is high. But when it is remembered that he spends much of his time on the pack ice, even in summer, one can see the usefulness, in his case, of wearing one's January coat in July.

Science News Letter, January 17, 1931

ETHNOLOGY

Indians Were Peaceable People Made Warlike by Whites

THE American Indian was never a really warlike individual, except in isolated instances. It was the injustice of the early white settlers that made him stand up for his rights and so gave him the reputation for belligerency, declared Dr. M. W. Stirling, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution, speaking in a radio talk presented by Science Service through the nation-wide network of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

"In the year 1608", said Dr. Stirling, "Edward Harlow was sent in a ship by Captain John Smith of the new Jamestown colony to explore the Cape Cod region. When he landed there and the Indians came out to meet him, he seized five of them and carried them off, taking them with him to England. The next touch of hospitality encountered by the Indians of the Plymouth region was when Thomas Hunt was sent there from Jamestown in 1614 to determine the desirability of the site for colonization.

Deceived by Explorers

"When he landed the Indians came to meet him in a friendly manner. He invited them on his ship and as soon as they were aboard clapped them all, twenty-four in number, under hatches and carried them off to sell as slaves to the Spaniards. One of the Indians who later escaped was brought back to Plymouth by Captain Dermer who attempted to regain the good will of the Indians of the region in 1619. However, the natives, in view of what happened on the two previous visits, were not in a mood to parley.

"Despite his reputation to the contrary, the Indian was not by nature particularly warlike. Tribes that in later days bitterly obstructed the invasion of the whites, were invariably on first contact, friendly and hospitable.

"Some of the tribes of the Great Plains practised a peculiar sort of warfare as a manner of gaining individual prestige, and the Aztecs seemed to be on the verge of developing an idea unique among Indians: That of supporting themselves by conquest. Most Indians, however, avoided fighting whenever

possible, but fought fanatically when driven to it.

"Warfare among the Indians was not as a rule a tribal matter excepting in the case of defensive fighting for mutual protection. War parties were organized by individuals, usually adventurous young men. Anyone might organize such a party and collect such volunteers as would accompany him. Frequently wiser old men would attempt to dissuade such an exploit but no one had authority to prohibit such a venture. Actual fighting was as a rule by ambush or surprise attack. Military tactics were never used until the benefits of organized fighting were learned from the whites."

Science News Letter, January 17, 1931

About three-fourths of the world's people live within the borders of the North Temperate Zone.

**KEEP ABREAST
IN YOUR SUBJECT**

**EARN CREDIT
TOWARD A DEGREE**

While teaching, use the

HOME STUDY

courses for **Teachers** in Rural, Primary, Grade and High Schools—or for **Supervisors** and **Principals**, which the University gives **by correspondence**. 450 courses in 45 subjects yield credit toward either a Bachelor's degree or Teaching Certificate.

Write for booklet giving full information.

The University of Chicago
577 Ellis Hall Chicago

March's Thesaurus Dictionary

Complete, authoritative, gives you *instantly* the exact word for every shade of meaning. See description, full page advertisement, issue of January 10, 1931.

Write for "Three Men and a Book," an entertaining booklet showing the advantages of March.

Historical Publishing Co.
Dept. SCX, 1334 Cherry St., Phila., Pa.