



### Spring Is a Forward Wench

► SPRING is a forward wench, unwilling to wait for her proper cue, taking the slightest excuse to edge herself upon the stage, for moments at least, while white-bearded old Winter is supposed to have a monopoly of the scene for his rantings and roarings.

Let only the briefest of thaws intervene in the hard-frozen weeks of January, even well toward the north, and precocious flowers will burst forth, cold-defying little birds will suddenly appear in sheltered or sunny spots, and animals that are supposed to sleep all winter long will stir in their hibernation and venture out for a stretch and a look-see.

Already, in the latitude of the Tennessee Valley, and certain to come in the next couple of weeks even as far up the map as the southern Great Lakes, are such hardy harbingers as alder catkins and skunk cabbages, soon to be followed by pussywillows. Of course, the stringy yellow petals of witch-hazel flowers are likely to appear on any odd warm day in winter, and violets will sturdily bloom under the shelter of a few leaves.

About now, too, horned larks will be appearing in sunny meadows and prairie stretches in the Midwest, their thin, sweet notes piping defiance to the blustering challenge of the winds. In more easterly woods as well as in timber-belts in the states bordering the Mississippi, the loud, bold notes of cardinals are apt to ring all winter long. Birds like these never go far south in their migrations, and venture northward whenever relaxation in winter weather gives them the slightest leave.

Not all winter-sleeping animals go deep into hibernation's almost deathlike

state. Many, especially squirrels and sometimes even black bears, may awaken in late winter, come blinking out for a whiff of fresh air and perhaps a little food if they can find it, and then go back to bed again.

This is true of hibernating insects no less than of mammals. On warm winter days, when the sun is growing stronger, you may see bees crawling about the

hive entrance, or box-elder bugs that have been hiding no one knows where, or woolly-bear caterpillars going humpity-hump across open stretches of sidewalk or bare earth.

Winter is a tyrant, and his subjects, always in their hearts really liegemen of Spring, are in a constant state of ill-suppressed insurrection.

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## Books of the Week

► BETTER understanding of neuroses, of more serious mental diseases, of malingering and hysteria, and of the effects of injury on the mind will come from reading *THE MIND OF THE INJURED MAN*, by Joseph L. Fetterman (*Industrial Medicine Book Co.*, \$4). While some portions of the book, such as those on diagnosis and treatment, seem addressed primarily to physicians, it is on the whole so free of technical terms and so clearly and simply written that many non-medically trained persons, especially attorneys and others concerned with compensation procedures, will be able to read it with ease as well as benefit.

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### Just Off Press

AMMUNITION: Its History, Development and Use 1600-1943—22 BB Cap to 20 mm. Shell—Melvin M. Johnson, Jr., and Charles T. Haven—*Morrow*, 361 p., illus., charts, \$5.

ATLAS OF ISOTHERMAL TRANSFORMATION DIAGRAMS—U. S. Steel Corp., 104 p., illus., free.

BEHIND THE STEEL WALL: A Swedish Journalist in Berlin 1941-43—Arvid Fredborg—*Viking*, 305 p., illus., \$3.

A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ANDREAS VESALIUS—Harvey Cushing—*Schuman's*, 229 p., illus., \$15. Limited ed. (800 copies).

CIVILIZATION AND DISEASE—Henry E. Sigerist—*Cornell Univ. Press*, 225 p., \$3.75.

COOKING DEHYDRATED FOODS—War Dept.—*Gov. Print. Office*, 73 p., illus., 15c, paper, Tech. Man. 406. An Army cook book.

EMULSION TECHNOLOGY: Theoretical and Applied; A Symposium—*Chemical Pub.*, 290 p., illus., \$5.

ENZYME TECHNOLOGY—Henry Tauber—*Wiley*, 275 p., illus., \$3.50.

FARM PEOPLE AND THE LAND AFTER THE WAR—Murray R. Benedict—*Nat. Planning Assn.*, 26 p., illus., 25c, Planning Pamphlets No. 28, paper.

FOOD, WAR AND THE FUTURE—E. Parmelee Prentice—*Harper*, 164 p., illus., \$2.50.

A GRAPHIC SUMMARY OF FARM ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS—Bureau of Agr.

Econ.—*Gov. Print. Off.*, 88 p., illus., 15c, paper, Misc. Pub. No. 530.

HANDBOOK FOR BOYS—*Boy Scouts of America*, 680 p., illus., 50c, rev. ed., paper.

LABORATORY MANUAL OF BIOCHEMISTRY—Benjamin Harrow and others—*Saunders*, 132 p., illus., paper, \$1.50, 2nd ed.

PATHOLOGY IN FOREST PRACTICE—Dow Vawter Baxter—*Wiley*, 618 p., illus., \$5.50.

A PRIMER OF ELECTRONICS—Don P. Caverly—*McGraw-Hill*, 235 p., illus., \$2.

RUBBER RED BOOK: Directory of the Rubber Industry—*The Rubber Age*, 579 p., illus., \$5.

THE SEVEN MYTHS OF HOUSING—Nathan Straus—*Knopf*, 322 p., illus., \$2.75.

THE SOURCES OF LIFE—Serge Voronoff—*Bruce Humphries*, 240 p., \$3.50.

STEEL IN ACTION: Science for War and Peace Series—Charles M. Parker—*Jaques Cattell*, 221 p., illus., \$2.50.

TECHNOLOGY AND LIVELIHOOD: An Inquiry Into the Changing Technological Basis for Production as Affecting Employment and Living Standards—Mary L. Fledderus and Mary van Kleeck—*Russell Sage Foundation*, 237 p., \$1.25.

THE YOUNG CRAFTSMAN: Descriptions of Over 450 Easy Craft Projects—*Pop. Mech. Press*, 224 p., illus., \$1.

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