



Life in Winter

➤ WINTER, we are accustomed to assume, is a time of frozen paralysis for plants in the snowy parts of the world. Leaves are gone from most of the trees, no flowers bloom; the short-lived herbs, that complete their lives, from seed to seed, between spring and fall, are all dead and withered. Poets of the more sentimental school have made great capital of winter as a time of desolation and death.

If we go and take a look for ourselves, however, instead of sitting by the fire and indulging in thanatopsian musings, we are likely to see a great deal more of life in the seeming-dead woods and fields than a superficial observer, going home in a shivering hurry, would ever suppose.

Evergreen trees—pines and spruces and firs and junipers—are of course obvious to everyone. So much so, indeed, that they have been taken as the symbols of hope and expectation of a spring-time resurrection: that is the basis of our use of them for Christmas trees.

But down on the ground, among the

dead leaves or even boldly taking the worst that winter has to offer right out in the open, are all kinds of smaller evergreen plants. Several species of fern (one of them even named Christmas fern), almost all the mosses, trailing arbutus, hepaticas, round-leaved harebell, scrambling vines like the catbriar, tough dwarf shrubs like bearberry, rosette-forming weeds like mullein and dandelion, and a hundred other hardy humble evergreens, keep their leaves all winter long.

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ELECTRONICS-AERONAUTICS

Towering Walls of Light To Flank Landing Strip

➤ A NEW AIRFIELD runway lighting technique, involving the use of two towering walls of light flanking a landing strip, is planned for New York's new Idlewild municipal airport, it is reported. The sheets of light, extending high into the sky, will help planes to make safe landings in foggy weather. It is a scheme never before tried as a landing aid, it is claimed.

The new landing guide is so planned that the approaching pilot will see the runway as a dark area between twin sheets of controlled light that shoot upward without glaring into his eyes. The runway surface will be illuminated by

smaller lamps, to the low surface brightness preferred by aviators.

"Each unit of the new system of landing lights will include 300-watt 'sealed beam' floodlight with a prismatic lens which will fan out light parallel to the runway," W. A. Pennow of Westinghouse Electric Corporation states. "The units will be spaced 200 feet apart according to present plans, with provisions for 100-foot spacings in the future. The fanning effect will create an interlocked 'wall' of light a short distance above the runway."

The floodlight unit will have a contact light mounted on the same base so that the walls of light can be used in bad weather and normal runway lighting in good visibility.

The new system was conceived by Adam Kopf, lighting expert of the office of Edward A. Sears, electrical consultants in New York. Mr. Kopf refers to the system as an "aisle of light." A similar curtain of light was used, he said, at a Long Island amphitheater to mask the stage from the audience. Westinghouse engineers transformed Mr. Kopf's idea into actual electrical fixtures for use on the runway.

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It is believed that *scurvy* did not afflict infants until bottle feeding was practiced.

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