

# THE CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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## Home in the Tree Tops

Four young people with a "flat" of their own—in a tree top at West Norwood, Surrey.

## ARE WHITE WINTERS COMING BACK AGAIN?

The recent spell of cold weather was the severest known for a very long time. The Thames near Reading froze from bank to bank and so did the Avon near Bath—for the first time, it is believed, for 60 years. The harbour at Bristol became a sheet of ice, and even the sea froze as it flowed over the sands at Pegwell Bay, Kent. Swans, ducks, seagulls—all have had to be freed from the ice.

AMONG the chilliest places was Edinburgh, which had its fourth lowest temperature (8 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1770; but the coldest people in Scotland must have been the men finishing the ski chairlift in the Cairngorm Mountains near Glenmore. The temperature up there was minus seven degrees F.—39 degrees of frost, and if they took off their gloves their skin froze to the metal.

The period of exceptional cold

extended far beyond Britain. Ice six inches thick on the Danube in Austria stopped all river traffic, and even in India many people died in the coldest weather in living memory.

Winters have been getting slightly colder in recent years, a fact which has led some people to wonder if we are going back to the Arctic weather our forefathers knew. In the winter of 1684, for example, people in Britain dropped dead in their tracks from cold that

covered the Thames with ice nearly a foot thick. Much of the country's wild life perished. But from 1850 onwards there were progressively warmer winters.

Pointing this out in the January issue of *Discovery*, Mr. Veryard, a meteorologist, thinks that the present colder winters are only a temporary phase in a very gradual warming-up process.

That seems to be the opinion of most scientists. The Northern Hemisphere has been getting slowly warmer all this century. Glaciers have been melting, and in Canada crops are now grown in areas that were formerly too cold for farming.

Animals and birds have been affected, too. Deer, for instance, have moved farther north.

## Richard's icy rescue

Richard Field, of Bedford Modern School, recently made a spectacular rescue of his dog from the frozen waters of the Great Ouse.

RICHARD'S dog spotted some swans on one of the few open patches of the river and rushed across the ice towards them. It broke under him and though he made many attempts to get back, his paws slipped at the ice edges.

Richard stripped and started off himself over the ice. When it broke he smashed a channel through it, swimming about 25 yards towards his struggling friend. Then the dog pulled himself on to the ice and scampered towards the bank; just before he got there he fell in again—but near enough to be helped out by spectators.

Meanwhile Richard, his hands and arms cut by ice, swam back, cheered by a watching crowd.

Said Richard, who belongs to his school boat club: "I could not have rowed up and down that river with the thought that my dog had drowned there."

## Baa-baa false teeth

A ten-year-old ewe on an Isle of Wight farm is claimed to be the first sheep in the world to be given false teeth. In seven days after a Newport dentist and a veterinary surgeon had fitted plastic dentures to her lower jaw she put on 20 lb. in weight.

Loss of teeth often means that sheep have to be disposed of even while still quite young, because they can't eat enough to maintain their growth.

In Nebraska, U.S.A., where the grass is particularly tough, there was a problem of a similar nature. There, farmers wondered what could be done when a cow's teeth are so worn down by eating tough grass that she eats less than she did and yields less milk. A remedy has been found—steel crowns have been fitted to cows' teeth.

## JUST WORK IT OUT

Pity the people who have to provide school meals. One official instruction they have to deal with contains this brain-twister: "The meals brought forward plus the meals purchased less the full-price meals sold should equal the meals brought forward for the following week."

