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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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WINTER HOUSING

The Eskimo of the snowier portion of the Arctic has solved the problem of winter housing by building small, practically air-tight, thick-walled houses of wind-compacted snow, sometimes with a thick block of clear ice for a window. We try to get the same sort of protection with double-walled and double-windowed houses. Canadian railway coaches even have triple windows. With the wind blowing upon a single thickness of windowpane, the glass may take on such a low temperature that it will act like a frosty piping of a refrigerating machine. The presence of a storm window, however, creates an insulating, calm air space between it and the inner pane which then retains more nearly the temperature of the rooms. No weather strips can do this. Like weather strips, storm windows prevent the wind from blowing through the cracks around the sash, and are of particular value on the most exposed windows. However, the air between the windows can circulate, and so the insulation is not of the best. Between inner and outer walls, however, such circulation can be largely prevented by sawdust filling. This provides excellent insulation, corresponding to that of ice-houses. Sawdust, however, is not so good as the Eskimo's snow blocks with their large but extremely finely divided air content. Our houses are winter proof in cold climates only to the extent that we can find good substitutes for the imperviousness and non-conduction of the igloo.

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