

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
January 12, 1927

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed January 5, 1927

By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

HOW TO KEEP YOUR HOUSE FROM FREEZING UP

Even if your house is occupied, a cold snap may cause a freeze-up. Storm windows are a considerable protection against sudden temperature drops. The window shades should be kept up to the top by day, if you would use the sun's heat to full advantage, but they may well be drawn down at night, to shut the room air off, to some extent, from the refrigerating surface.

On a very cold night it is well not to bank the fire too high, it will burn too slowly and not give out sufficient heat. Better is it to arise and put on more coal in the small hours of the morning, if you have an alarm clock and the requisite courage.

Everyone knows that the water should be left dripping on the coldest night. In fact, since in the most frigid winds the temperature tends to reach its minimum some time after sunrise, it is well to keep the water moving throughout the morning as well. Cellar windows should be tight and well banked with snow, earth, sawdust, leaves, or straw, especially those windows near water pipes. Cold rooms without pipes should be kept shut off from the rest of the house: on the contrary, open the door of any cold room through which pipes pass.

Closing a house, even for a short time in winter, involves a number of precautions. The water must be turned off, and pipes, catch-basins, water heaters, furnace and radiators drained. It is well to put alcohol and, perhaps, oil in any shallow water which must be left standing. Pitchers and vases must be emptied. The shades should be pulled down, at least on the north side and at any other sunless windows. Preserves which contain much sugar, and jellies, and jams do not freeze readily, but canned vegetables require protection. It is safest to put them in the deepest corner of the cellar up against the wall, and cover them well with newspapers and old rugs.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D.C.