

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 25, 1929.

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

SNOW PROVERBS

"The old woman is plucking her geese" is a proverbial way of saying that snow is falling, familiar throughout the English-speaking world. Akin to it is the saying recorded from Derbyshire, England: "They are pulling geese in Scotland; so here it snows." In Cheshire, according to Apperson's "English Proverbs," the saying is: "They're plucking their geese in Wales and sending their fithers here."

Many proverbs refer to the beneficial effects of a snow covering to the farmer. Thus:

"A snow year, a rich year."

"A year of snow, a year of plenty."

"Snow year, good year."

"Under water, famine; under snow, bread."

There is a German proverb of which the translation runs "So deep the snow, so tall the grass."

It is possible, however, to have too much of a good thing, and the Italians say: "For seven days snow is a mother, then it becomes a stepmother, then a nuisance." A similar proverb is current in France.

Coming "like snow in harvest" means to come unexpectedly, or out of season.

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21st and B Sts.  
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