

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Mysteries of Science and Nature-

Indian Summer and Squaw Winter Are Weather Phenomena with Which Everybody is Acquainted, but Nobody Can Precisely Fix the Limits of, Either

By GARRETT P. SERVISS.

"When does Indian summer start, and how long does it last—C. P." There is no fixed date for the beginning or ending of Indian summer. It is a period of readjustment in atmospheric conditions, occurring between the autumnal equinox (September 21) and the winter solstice (December 21), but usually nearer the latter. It may be looked for about the beginning of November, but it sometimes starts in earlier and sometimes later.

It is characterized by a warm spell, or a succession of warm spells, setting in after the preliminary chill which comes when the sun has sunk below the equator on its annual visit to the southern hemisphere, and it is caused by the accumulated summer heat, sufficing to counterbalance the decrease of the daily supply from the sun for a long time after the nights have begun to exceed the days in length.

The irregularities are due to variations of atmospheric conditions that are too complicated to be accurately traced in advance, but in the long run it is a regular phenomenon that can be counted upon to occur, on the average, every autumn.

Nowhere has the Indian summer season a more poetic character than in eastern America. It seems to lend itself particularly to the features of our landscape, giving them a wonderful softness and charm. Always during this curious spell of weather the quiet atmosphere is filled with a delicate, smoky film, which produces marvellously beautiful effects of perspective among the hills and valleys.

Many imaginary explanations of the origin of the name, "Indian summer," and of the cause of the singular and often prolonged spell of weather to which it is applied, have been suggested. The early settlers seem to have thought that the peculiar condition of the atmosphere was brought about by forest fires set by the Indians. This was a natural conclusion, because the season is almost always characterized by the presence of much smoke in the air, and this smoke does often proceed from forest and brush fires.

But to assume that the fires are the cause of the warm autumn weather is to put the cart before the horse. First break out because the weather is dry, and the heat that they impart to the air is merely local. It is possible, however, that the presence of the smoke has something to do with the heat-trapping properties of the air. True clouds being absent for many days during Indian summer, the sun's rays are poured unobstructed down upon the earth, and the layer of haze in the atmosphere—like the gardener's glass panes over the hot-bed, retaining the heat that has passed through in the form of visible radiation.

Usually, before the Indian summer sets in, there is a spell of cold weather, often accompanied by flurries of snow, a first effect of the sun's declension toward the south, and this was called "squaw winter." It is more commonly known in Canada. The tradition is that the Indians, who were good observers of nature, had long studied these vagaries of the autumn weather and were able to predict them each year, for which reason the whites gave them designations suggesting their Indian origin.

There are similar weather variations in spring, due to similar causes. Both spring and autumn are only intermediary seasons, coming between the two really characteristic seasons, winter and summer, and necessarily partaking of the nature of both. Sometimes one element and sometimes the other prevails. In spring wintry conditions, brought about by unpredictable atmospheric changes, but such as are sure to occur with more or less regularity every year, often arrest for a time the general increase of temperature, and in autumn a similar recurrence of summer conditions interrupts the forward march of the coming winter.

A Hallowe'en Witch :: Copyright, 1914, Intern'l News Service. :: By Nell Brinkley

Losing Your Girl

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

"It is easy enough to be pleasant when life flows on like a song—but the man worth while is the man who can smile when everything goes dead wrong."

"Up to four years ago I was possessed of a happy, optimistic nature," writes L. A. H. "I was living with my parents in a fine home, being greatly indulged, care-free and with no responsibilities. I then came to New York to fill a position to which I had been called. I have been compelled to suffer hardships and humiliations which have been almost unbearable, and which have caused my whole life and nature to change. Sickness resulted in loss of position, and I have had to be contented with pinging along in ineffective places at a minor salary, while I am confident that with an even chance I could qualify for positions of greater prestige than heretofore held. My friends take other people's sorrows as a matter of course. No realising that I do, cheer me. Dark clouds seem to hover over me. It is only for the sake of my aged parents that I have not given up hope. I feel down and out at 24 years of age."

When the boy who lives at home and is "greatly indulged, care-free and with no responsibilities" comes to New York, or any great city, he has two battles to fight. One is for place in the maelstrom of city life. The other is to force himself to keep his grit and go on fighting. Being happy and keeping your grip are one and the same thing, L. A. H.

It is easy enough to be cheerful when you are at home being petted and indulged and generally unfitted for the fight of life.

The point is not whether you are plunging along in places where you cannot make your ability tell. The point is not that if chance were good enough to throw something worth while your way you could prove your effectiveness. The real point that is going to decide whether you are to be a success or a failure is just this: Are you capable of taking joy in your work whatever it is? Are you strong enough to hope on in the face of disappointment after disappointment? Are you sufficiently imaginative and keen to find opportunity what to another man might seem ordinary routine work?

At 24 years of age no man goes "down and out" unless he deliberately loosens his grip on the steering wheel of his own life. No failure in youth or middle life—no loss of opportunity—no pinging along at second rate work in any way final. Anything may be coming your way today or tomorrow. All you need to do is to be ready when it does come. Now, don't think that a platitudinous "Almost every man who fails is directly responsible for his own failure."

Whether you succeed or fail in life is largely a matter of how long you can manage to keep your grip—and your head. If you can think sanely and assure yourself that no series of mistakes is an insurmountable, unbreakable thing that cannot at any moment be switched off into a series of successes, of course, no failure can daunt you. Now since all things in life are temporary, why not regard the day's unhappiness this way: This is for today only; tomorrow I may be on the crest of a wave of success. I will keep a firm grip on the steering wheel of my own life, and in the end I will master my fate because I have not lost my grip and let temporary misfortune master life and steer me to destruction and despair.

Do You Know That

A candle sixteen feet long and weighing 400 pounds, the finest and largest wax taper ever produced, has been made in New York and is intended to stand in the Vatican at Rome, where it will be lighted once a year on All Souls' day, in memory of the late J. Pierpont Morgan. At this rate it will have an endurance of quite 3,285 years—assuming it is left to burn twelve hours on each day when it is lighted.

The two sides of the human race are never alike. In two out of five the eyes are out of line; one eye is stronger than the other in seven cases out of ten, and the right ear is generally higher than the left.

The ostrich claims the distinction of laying the largest egg. The egg which weighs about three pounds, is condensed equal in contents to twenty-four hen eggs.

Toward the end of the new year the Kaiser's new yacht, Hohenzollern II, is to be launched. It will be the largest and most magnificent royal yacht ever built, and will cost at least \$2,500,000.

Household Economy

How to Have the Best Cough Remedy and Save \$2 by Making It at Home

Cough medicines, as a rule contain a large quantity of plain syrup. A pint of granulated sugar with 1/2 pint of warm water, stirred for 30 minutes, gives you as good syrup as money can buy.



Great Chance for Girls is Doing Something Useful :: By Dorothy Dix

This is a time of peculiar upheaval in the feminine world. Up to now the average American girl was expected to stay at home until she was married and then go to a home of her own. And she could fairly safely count on getting married.



In the last few years, however, this comfortable program of life has been altered. The high cost of living has made it impossible for the man in ordinary circumstances to support a family of girls in comfort.

The girls themselves have heard so much about the parasitic woman that they have become ashamed of hanging like a millstone around a poor old father's neck. Also the chances of catching a husband are greatly diminished, and young women of presentable appearance are no longer certain, as they formerly were, of getting married.

All of these conditions have turned the thoughts of girls toward self-support. This is well. There is no more reason upon an intelligent and able-bodied young woman should be dependent on somebody else for her living than there is why a man should be. It develops a woman's brain and brawn and character to do some regular work, whereby she earns honest money and acquires the strength to stand on her own feet.

Instead of flapping like a limp dead rat on some stronger individual, she becomes a more strenuous individual. But it takes a long time to rid ourselves of the superstitions of the past, and one of the most persistent of these hoodoos is that when a woman works she must always do some lady-like kind of work—that is, something artistic or literary and that is genteel—just as it was considered in the past more refined and elegant for a woman to do embroidery than it was to do plain useful sewing.

For this reason at least 90 per cent of the girls who want to work want to go on the stage, or to recite, or do parlor entertaining, or write, or paint. Also they want to do these things in a delicate manner and receive large rewards for their labor. They overlook the fact that to succeed in the fine arts as well as in common occupations you have to slave like a dray horse, and that there are absolutely no short cuts or quick roads to success. Behind every star on the stage and every well known writer

there lies an apprenticeship that has been served in toil and sweat and blood. Now, of course, if a girl has the divine fire, and has given unmistakable signs of a genius for acting or painting, or writing, she does well to choose the calling to which her talent dedicates her. But there is no such thing as a girl making herself into a Maudie Adams because she would like to be on the stage, or into an Ellen Glasgow because she would like to see her name in print. Nature settled that question for her once and for all before she was born, and all the work of the world will never take the place of talent.

It is as foolish for an ungifted girl to think that she can make herself a writer or an actress as it would be for a short, stubby woman to think she could make herself into a tall, willowy goddess. It simply can't be done. It is my unhappy lot in life to see hundreds of these would-be artist and actor and writer girls who come to the city seeking their fortunes, and who find no market for their poor wares, and are stranded in its hard streets. There's hardly a week in the year that half a dozen of these forlorn creatures are not knocking at my door, begging me to help them launch some sort of concert or entertainment or benefit to help them out, and in which good-natured patronesses hold up their friends and make them buy tickets.

Now these girls have plenty of intelligence. They could make good livings if they would only come down off their high horses and plough a little and do something practical, give some useful service that the world needs. You don't see every man trying to be an actor, or writer, or doctor, or lawyer. If you did you would see among men as wholesale starvation and failure as you do among women. Men realize that they have got to be grocers and butchers, bakers and candlestick makers, and that while we can do without the fine arts on a pinch we have got to have the common necessities, and that the purveyors of them are the ones that make the money.

So I entreat the young women who are contemplating going to work to support themselves to choose something useful to do, something practical to do. Do the work that lies closest to you so well that somebody will not only be willing, but anxious, to pay you for doing it. There's never any dearth of a market for a superior-quality of goods, and this applies to labor more than to anything else. The world is flooded with amateurs, but there are never enough experts in any line to go around.

At Once! Stops Stomach Misery And Indigestion

Do some foods you eat bit back-taste good, but work badly? Ferment into stubborn lumps and cause a sick, sour, gassy stomach? Now, Mr. or Mrs. Dyspeptic, let this down: Pape's Diapessin digests everything, leaving nothing to sour and upset you. There never was anything so safely quick, so certainly effective. No difference how badly your stomach is disordered you will get happy relief in five minutes, but what pleases you most is that it strengthens and regulates your stomach so you can eat your favorite foods without fear.

Aeroplanes and the Wind

By EDGAR LUCIEN LARKIN.

Q.—A few friends discussed recently upon the effect on an aeroplane in motion of favorable or adverse winds. For example, a machine travels by its own power thirty miles per hour in calm atmosphere.

Advice to Lovelorn

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am 18, and have been out with a young man two years. He has taken me to many places of amusement.

Posing for the "Movies."

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a factory girl and am disgusted with my position. There is a chance for me to get a position to pose for a moving picture. Kindly give me your advice if this is a position for a respectable girl.

How to Have the Best Cough Remedy and Save \$2 by Making It at Home

Cough medicines, as a rule contain a large quantity of plain syrup. A pint of granulated sugar with 1/2 pint of warm water, stirred for 30 minutes, gives you as good syrup as money can buy.