

among people of their lands to support professions.

**Buncombe County Medical Auxiliary Met Wednesday**

The auxiliary to the Buncombe County Medical society held a short business meeting and tea Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in the home of Mrs. Donald MacRae on Pine Tree road, Lakeview Park, Asheville.

WANTED—News for The News

**MEMBERS AIDING NEEDED IN EUROPE WOMEN'S CLUB**

Members of the Business and Professional Women's club of Asheville are taking part in a national project of the federation of clubs to send regularly boxes of food and clothing to members of Business and Professional Women's clubs in devastated Europe, who are members of the international federation.

The project was inaugurated when Dr. Lena Madesin Phipps, president of the international federation, met members in Paris who wore shabby patched clothes and shoes and had less than 200 pounds of coal for the entire winter. Miss Margaret Hickey, national president of the federation of Business and Professional Women's clubs, wrote clubs throughout the United States asking them to help European members who were among the hardest hit classes as there is not enough money

**NATURE STUDY GOD'S GIFT—HAIL STORMS**

By MRS. THOS. S. SHARP

"Far along, from peak to peak, the rattling crags among Leaps the live thunder! Not from one lone cloud, But every mountain now hath found a tongue." Byron: "Storm in the Alps," Childe Harold, Canto III.

Hail is frozen rain. So is snow, I hear you say. You are right. It is "a distinction with a difference," and the difference is not a chemical one, but merely a difference in the way the ice-crystals have formed as the water was frozen in the sky, and in the way the crystals cling to each other. It is thought that a very sudden cooling of the air when it contains a great deal of water-vapor causes hail. That explains why we expect hail in summer and snow in winter, the air holding, usually, more water vapor in summer and therefore more suddenly cooled by a cold wind. When warm moisture-laden air rises and cools, it first condenses into a cloud. As its continues to rise it reaches a colder atmosphere-level where rain is formed and then, hail and rain. As it rises higher still, it reaches a region where only snow is formed.

Have you seen snow and rain, or snow and sleet almost at the same time? That is because the water-vapor is coming from different temperature-levels, or rather, that it cooled at these levels. Ordinary hailstorms or sleet are formed in the first cold region, it is believed, but the larger "stones" are carried up and down many times from the rain region to the snow region until the whirling air current can no longer hold them up—as when you "juggle" a rubber ball up many times with the palm of one hand but suddenly "slip up" and let it fall to the ground.

In winter, hail rarely falls to any depth (recall the hail-shower we had recently), because the exact temperature necessary to form the hail does not often continue for very long at a time. The hail is small and almost harmless. Hail falls before a rainstorm in winter, even when the ground temperature precludes the possibility of snow; some stratum of cold air has caught the drops as they were falling. Such was the condition here on Sunday, February 10th. The hail was followed by rain.

In summer, hail indicates that a very violent disturbance of the atmosphere is in progress—a serious matter. Vertical air currents often carry the storms up several times, as we have just mentioned. These storms take on layer after layer—concentric layers of transparent solid ice alternating with layers of snowy white, soft ice. Sometimes the large storms have a center of small gravel, or other foreign substance borne high in the air by tornadic winds. There is, often, instead a central core of snow in which air, or some of the gases composing it, is imprisoned under very great pressure. The usual summer hail is about the size of a large bird egg, at its greatest. They have been known to be as large as hen eggs or even apples! Even a small projectile, falling for a half mile or more, can be most destructive to crops, animals, cars, and even houses that are covered with tar-paper roofing.

The Black Mountain area had a very severe hail-storm in June 1915(?). In those days there were no "taxis." As our three-seated vehicle drawn by two horses reached about the half-way point on the Blue Ridge road, suddenly the driver was covered with white. Our first thought was rhododendron flowers shedding, but, as suddenly, we realized that not a bloom had opened! As that moment, the horses reared and pitched forward. The skilled driver quickly turned them into an opening, and jumped upon the "lead horse" talking to and quieting him. The hail storm was soon over, leaving tattered leaves on shrubs and trees, and—worse for us, when we arrived at "just-a-mere-shack," our summer house, we found the four-ply tar paper roof just one immense sieve! Great stones were in the rooms and piled up deep and at least one foot high against the windows of the 10 foot porch. Large hailstones were piled around the trees. Two or three filled a cup!

No wonder that our roof was al-long day," by request.

most one big hole. We found the maids who had opened and cleaned the house, crouched under the high shelves for protection. Their first question was: "Is the world coming to an end?" After assuring them that that time was yet to be, they came out and helped us move all bedding and other perishables to the tin-roofed guest-house nearby. The wagon with our trunks drew up at that moment, fortunately having missed the hail. Those threatening clouds warned us that a big storm was brewing, and that we had no time to waste. We had hardly "moved" when the lightning, the thunder, and the tremendous downpour began!

In two weeks, we were re-roofed and re-moved and "lived happily ever afterwards."

We were out in our slight hail storm the other day, Sunday, the tenth, but hurried to the Blue Ridge gate for shelter. As usual there was thunder with rain following. During a severe hail-storm, the lightning is terrific. A flake or ball or snow forms the nucleus of the "stone."

In summer hail is a possibility, though not a probability, with every large storm. If a thundercloud is particularly black or if it is in commotion, seek shelter. Seek a beech or a small spruce. Statistics show that only three in a million are killed by lightning, yearly. If you do not wish to be one of the three, never seek refuge under a tree during a storm (without hail). Barns are struck so often because the body of warm, dry air in them favors the passage of dry air in them far dardardaa of electricity. When indoors, go to any closed room on the side of a house away from trees. Open windows (if no tree is outside, nearby, or if there is not a draft in the room) porches, and exposures generally are safe, but not safest. Trees that are tall and otherwise exposed are struck oftenest. The electricity in the cloud and the electricity in the earth are always endeavoring to combine. When the resistance of the intervening air is counteracted, the electric discharge between the thundercloud and earth takes place. So, very tall trees, if good conductors, or steeples, are frequently "struck". One of the steeples on the chapel of Duke University was severely damaged when we were there one spring. Later, the same steeple was struck—making twice in one place. Oaks, tall pines, cherry trees and some others seem to "attract" lightning, so "is better to be thoroughly "soaked" in an open field, road or yard than to risk dangerous shelter. Cellars are ideal, and instinct usually leads us there. But if you are fearless you will be repaid if you remain on the porch. You will be thrilled with the magnificent spectacle. In the matter of "architecture," directness, surprise and coloring, a great thunderstorm is rarely surpassed by anything in nature.

Have you ever watched a thunderstorm arise in the mountains? If not, do so some hot morning. The warm, moist air flows up the mountain side. A fluffy cloud is formed as this air is cooled; it soon becomes tufted at the top and blacker underneath. Other clouds form in a like manner, and add to it. Suddenly, thunder is heard. The tension has become very great. A "fringe" lowers, and a few very heavy drops of rain may fall for awhile. There may be billowy white crest on the top and dark blue underneath with a curtain of rain. It will soon move off as these little heat thunderstorms do not often amount to much, even though "announced by all the trumpets of the sky."

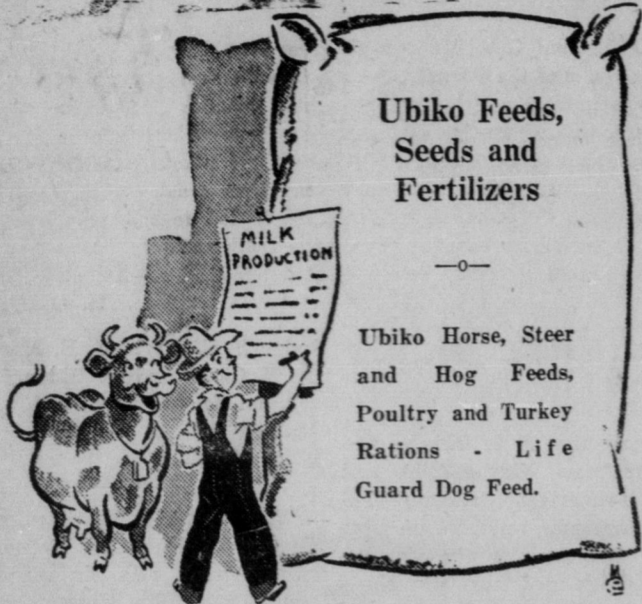
The most famous and remarkable hail-storm in history was the one recorded in Joshua's account of the battle of Beth-hovon (Joshua 10:11), when "the Lord fought for Israel," and the sun was commanded to "be silent." Jehovah cast down great stones from heaven upon them . . . and they died: they were more who died with the hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword."

Every nation and land has been affected by Joshua's victory,—the Hebrews thereby entering the land where the Messiah must be born.

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Next week Joshua's "battle and

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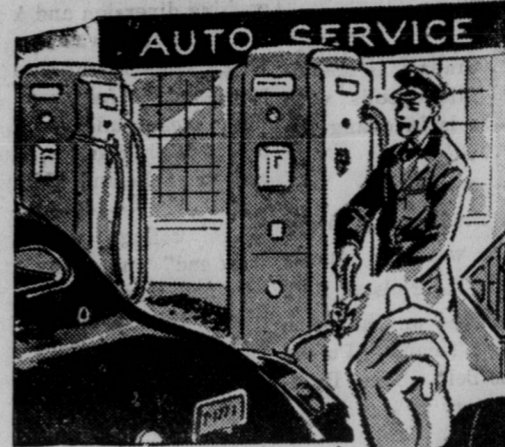
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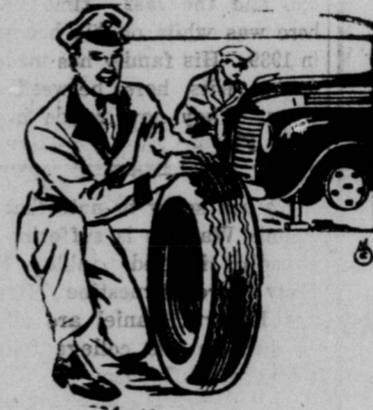
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