

it should seem desirable to leave the *Fram*; but there was little fear that this would become necessary. In fact, when she was again frozen in, there seemed to be every probability that her crew must spend another winter on board, and all preparations were made for so doing. In one respect, however, this winter would be less comfortable than the two preceding ones; for owing partly to one of the cog-wheels of the windmill having worn out, and partly to the necessity of converting portions of the machinery into ski and sledge-runners, the electric apparatus was no longer in working order, and for the remainder of the voyage the ship's company would have to content themselves with oil-lamps.

During the winter, in spite of the absence of the electric light, the time passed comfortably enough. Still the same round of work and duties continued, and all observations were taken as regularly as when Nansen was on board. Certainly life did grow rather monotonous, and the sight of the same faces day after day at length became so trying that the men sought relief in long solitary walks over the ice. It was fortunate that some dogs still remained; there were, in fact, more now than when Nansen left the ship, for several of the pups had pups of their own, whose freaks and frolics were a fruitful source of interest and amusement. Owing to one cause and another several of these pups were seized with convulsions, and in spite of all efforts to relieve them several died.