

The Rockwood Review.

the swifts use in their nest masonry, "Birdlime."

Hunter boys are perambulating the woods, and frequently capture *Mephitis Mephitis*, as well as Raccoons. The mild spells that occur sometimes at the beginning of February, are the "mating" times of these quadrupeds, they wander much from their burrows, and as they are easily tracked on the snow, suffer death for their temerity.

The period of gestation of the Raccoon is probably the same as that of the Bear, say about ten weeks or more, that of *Mephitis* must be about eight weeks, as they frequently produce young about April 20th. This habit of sexual wandering, and the money value of their pelts, thins off the numbers greatly.

One of my acquaintances speaks of *Mephitis* as the "Woodart," a name perhaps of his own invention. Four of these were dug out of a burrow in the bush, less than a mile from here, last week. There were three females and one male, the latter an unusually big one, which had probably beaten off his weaker rivals. The trappers smother the Meph.'s in the holes, and remove them after several hours. The pets sell now readily at a dollar each.

Two youths near here have not long since been substituting a Stoat, or Weasel, for a Ferret in Rabbit captures. They fasten a collar on the weasel's neck, to which a long string is attached, and when his mission is accomplished in the burrow, he is dragged forth to daylight. The weasel is said to be capable of a certain amount of training.

The period of gestation of small quadrupeds shows more or less "corretateon." What risks the Marmot escapes by his habit of long hybernation, without which it is probable he would long ere this have been exterminated. Gestation with them is, as in the Hare, about thirty days, and the young come

forth about 1st May, or a little later.

Arctomys has some squirrel-like capabilities, and can climb up a tree occasionally if hard put to it, especially a rough barked one, but has to descend racoon and bear-like—"rear-end" first. They can more easily ascend inside a hollow tree, and thus escape many enemies. They are usually too clumsily formed to ascend smooth barked trees, such as the beech, with facility, and their "up-going" is laborious, and clinging powers soon exhausted; and their sagacity in the choice of a subterranean winter residence is remarkable. Most of the other hybernants stay out a number of weeks longer than the groundhog.

THE MOON OF THE SUGAR-MAKING.

O Moon of the incompleteness,

When all the world is new,

Moon of the maple sweetness,

Moon of the honey-dew!

Thy unshod feet are glancing

Swift as the moonbeams steal,

And the waves where the light is dancing

Are sealed with a silver seal.

But the doors of the crystal prison
Silently open again,

When the young spring sun uprisen

Looks on the glassy plain.

And a hundred camp-fires lighted

Gleam through the wilderness,

When the snow sinks back

affrighted,

And the cauldrons bubble and hiss.

And the blue smoke curling over,

And the mists of the morning meet;

And the shouts of the cattle drover,

And the slow-paced oxen's feet,

And the log-chain's jingle jangle,

And the blackbird's whistle shrill,

Mix in a musical tangle

In the sugar-camp over the hill.

K. S. McL.