

Here the rainfall during a year is very light, and the streams are all small, rising in the mountains. Small though they are, their value to the Californian is immense. During the long warm summer of about seven months, when rain scarcely ever falls, the water from these mountain streams is carried through large flumes and pipes to irrigate the soil of the valleys and foothills, and also to supply water for drinking and other purposes to the inhabitants of the rural districts and of the cities and towns. Without this some of the most beautiful valleys would in the summer be completely dried up. With it the rich soil can be made to produce enormous crops, and it is especially valuable in the growing of citrus fruits such as oranges and lemons. Land which has to be supplied with water in this way is always much more expensive than where irrigation is unnecessary. The winter is admitted by all to be the most enjoyable part of the year; although the summer is said to be very pleasant, as the days, if warm and dry, are always succeeded by cool nights, when one can sleep comfortably under a blanket. To one who is accustomed to the four seasons of the year a Californian climate would appear, at least for a while, somewhat monotonous; yet people who live here do not seem to tire of it, and there is no doubt a great deal of pleasure to be derived from the large proportion of sunny days, when one can be out in the open air instead of shut up in the house by the fire. Stoves for heating houses are seldom seen, but an open grate fire in a sitting room in the winter evenings is quite common.

Southern California is specially adapted for fruit culture, the orange, lemon, pear, peach, olive, apricot, almond, walnut and some others, have during the past few years usually shown good profits, and in some cases

in favoured localities and with good cultivation very large ones. This has been especially the case with orange growing at Riverside, and one or two other places where enormous profits have been made; but it would be difficult to say whether it is likely to continue or not. There is always the possibility of over-production as the orchards are extended, and there is also the possibility of insect pests destroying the trees or fruit over the whole country, as they have already done in a few places where the climatic conditions are not the most favourable for the production of the finer grades of fruit. I do not know, however, that the risks are greater here than in other countries and with crops of other kinds.

A few words about the climate of this country as affecting health may be of interest to a good many of the readers of the *EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY*, and on this point it is important that a careful and correct view of the question should be taken. For those who are in good health our cold Canadian winters are not unhealthy. When the mercury is down at zero the strong healthy man or woman, well wrapped up, enjoys a walk or a drive in the clear bracing air and is strengthened by it, and there is a pleasure in the winter season, which has a good effect on the health and the spirits as well, when the ground is covered with snow, and the merry jingle of the sleigh bells is heard on the streets, and when in the long winter evenings the family or the friends are gathered together by the fire, after the day's work is done. There is a pleasure too in the spring, when the first robin makes his appearance, and the first crow is heard, and the pleasure still increases as the spring advances and the beautiful little birds gather together in the trees and on the lawns; the buds and leaves and blossoms are brought forth, after the