

all these animals live on the cattle of the ranchers. Rattlesnakes are very numerous in some places, and near the Gila River is found the only poisonous species of lizards known—the Gila Monster. Here also is found the centipede whose bite is so poisonous that a limb bitten by it has to be amputated.

The climate of Arizona is dry, probably owing to the elevation and inland position of the country. During the winter there are a few slight falls of snow, which are heavier on the mountains than elsewhere, but heavy frosts never occur. In this season rain storms are more prolonged and frequent than at other times of the year. In the spring time the water rushes down from the mountains, filling all the streams to overflowing, but as the season advances these become quite dry. During the summer time there are thunder storms and cloud bursts which last a quarter of an hour or more. The dry water courses then become full of rushing water which carries everything before it. In a few hours only a little water is left in the pools and the courses are again dry. Consequently the want of water during the summer months is much felt. The ranchers who live near the mountain ranges can get their supply of water therefrom, but of late years many of them have adopted a curious method of storing up the immense quantities of water produced in the thunder storms. A suitable place is selected near the water-course, and with plow and scraper they hollow out a large circular space and throw the earth up on all sides. When they judge it of sufficient depth and breadth, they connect it with the river bed, and during the next storm let in water enough to cover the bottom. Cattle are then turned in and by their continual tramping the floor is soon hard enough to hold water months without much leakage. When the rivers and wells have dried up, this supply of water is pumped out into large troughs. Notwithstanding these precautions many cattle die during the droughts which occur every few years.

In the summer, especially during the months of July, and August, the heat is extreme in the lower parts of the country, sometimes reaching  $112^{\circ}$  F. in the shade. The sun bakes the earth quite hard, thus making it almost impossible for grass to grow except in sheltered places.

(To be continued.)