

## REVIEW'S QUESTION BOX.

1. In that group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean, is Bermuda the name of the island? If so, how large is it?
2. Are any of the other islands inhabited?

Yes. The group is commonly called the Bermudas, and the largest island is Bermuda. It is fifteen miles long, and from one to two miles wide, and contains the capital, Hamilton. The only other town is St. George, on St. George Island. But several other islands are inhabited; among them Somerset, St. Davids, Ireland and Watford Islands. The name "Bermudas," (old form Bermoothes), is a corruption of Bermudez, the name of the discoverer of the islands.

Miss E. J. A., New Brunswick:—The "lumps" on the ash twig are a scale insect. Put some of them in a covered fruit jar, and watch them develop.

The "large growth of buds" on the birch twig is due to some disease—probably fungus which prevents the branches from developing. Hence, there results a compact mass of dwarfed branches similar to the "witches broom" so common on spruce and fir.

The central axes of the birch catkins will soon break off.

## ARE THE SEASONS CHANGING?

The belief of many people that the seasons are undergoing some kind of change has led Professor Ignazio Galli to examine the weather records of the entire eighteenth century. They show fifty-one winters that lasted well into spring, thirty-one warm winters, thirteen unusually early winters, twelve mild winters followed by cold springs, eleven mild winters followed by mild springs, eleven cold autumns, eight very warm springs, eight summers with frosts, and five very warm autumns. There was one instance of six consecutive warm seasons. More than three-quarters of the periods of unusual weather occurred between the middle of autumn and the end of Spring. Many times during the eighteenth century, the same apparent anomalies recurred at the same seasons in several successive years; in every case, the seasons regained their normal characteristics. There have always been persons who imagined that the seasons were becoming warmer or colder than before. There is, however, small foundation for such beliefs; the world has indeed experienced many cold summers and many warm winters, but such seasons are not the rule, but the exception.

—*Youth's Companion.*

## MOVING DAY FOR MRS. LYNX.

The domestic life of the American lynx or wild cat is not often exposed to the observation of a sympathetic human being. All the more interesting is this little incident, of which a contributor to the *Outing Magazine* was a witness:

I watched a lynx family moving out one day. It was an interesting sight. I was cruising up a mountain road to a clump of cedar timber, and had no weapon except my axe. While I was creeping silently through the timber, I heard a cat mewing, I seated myself on a fallen log just at the edge of the dense timber, and waited. Presently I decided that the sound came from a fallen hollow cedar, a few rods from where I sat.

A lynx appeared at the opening, looked back into the hollow, and mewed encouragingly. She was joined by two half-grown kittens that stood blinking at the bright sunlight. The old one moved forward a few feet and called to her brood. They toddled out, and joined her. She played with them, cuffed them about, and bit at them, mewing and purring the while, exactly as a tabby does with her family.

In a short time she moved on again, stopped, and coaxed them to follow. It took her half an hour to lead them into the protection of the forest. My axe was not an effective weapon, but had I been otherwise armed, I could not have brought myself to molest the mother and her young.

## BETTER PENMANSHIP NEEDED.

According to the manager of the general mercantile branch of the National Employment Exchange in New York, "there are a great number of young men seeking clerical positions who are not fitted for them. Many of these are men who left school before they had received sufficient education to fit them for clerical work; others are simply incompetent."

Complaints against poor penmanship have been voiced lately in England. With all our devotion to popular education in recent years we seem to have failed to teach young persons to write well. The typewriter has not displaced and is not likely to displace handwriting for much of the work of the business world. Our schools should pay more attention to the subject, and even adults who cannot write well should learn to do so for their own advantage.—*Chicago Record Herald.*