

climate, are those four valuable F's—foot, form, fleetness, and fur.

Each and all of these are unquestionably most useful at times, but when snow lies deep and loose, the winning trump is the peculiar foot. In winter this becomes a veritable snow-shoe, a truly marvellous contrivance which enables the comparatively light animal to patter at will over drift and level which would otherwise hold him fast, a helpless prey to rapacious beast or bird that chose to attack. Nothing better for their purpose than his furry pads can be found among Nature's many marvels. His coat, too, plays an important part. Thin and cool during the heated term, as the cold weather approaches it thickens apace until it forms one of the lightest and warmest of coverings. The wild men of the North were quick to appreciate its valuable features, and wove strips of it into the cosiest of wraps. But the warmth and lightness of the coat are not all of its peculiarities. Grayish brown upon snow would be entirely too conspicuous, so Nature meets the difficulty with another beautiful provision. As the coat thickens as a guard against cold, it gradually turns white to match the increasing snow. The brown pales to a cream, and the cream whitens till only a darkish stripe down the springy back, and patches about the big eyes, remain to tell of the summer garb. Soon these too fade, until the hare is pure white, or so nearly so that he can squat amid the snow and so closely match his surroundings as to escape even practised eyes. If by chance discovered, he can speed away upon his snow-shoes and in a few bounds vanish in the snowy woods, where every log