

tea or take an occasional nap rather than spend the time in reading. There are two small newspapers—one published weekly, the other semi-weekly, and edited by a negro. In the Public Library, from which books may be taken for six shillings a year, many of the works of standard authors can be obtained but the magazines are a luxury in which Bermudians are not particularly interested. The library occupies two rooms in a building commonly known as the Public Buildings, which contains offices and the legislative chamber of the house. Other buildings in different parts of the town are used for public business.

There are two large hotels—one controlled by an American, the other by a Bermudian, and a number of smaller hotels and private boarding houses. Board is from ten dollars a week upwards.

There are no wild animals; horses, donkeys, cows, goats, a few dogs and cats are the principal domestic animals. The ground seems to be perfectly free from animal life, there being no snakes and not even a worm. Pasturage is not very good; the grass does not spring up in blades but in clusters which spread over the ground and are but a few inches in height; there is no underbrush. Insects are few, the chief being spiders nearly as large as one's hand, very large flying cockroaches and myriads of malevolent mosquitoes. It is absolutely necessary to use a mosquito net the greater part of the year.

The trees are very different from ours in the north, many of them bearing scarlet, purple or white blossoms. Most of them remain in leaf the year round, a few lose their leaves two or three times while the fiddle-wood—corrupted from fiddle wood—turns red and loses its leaves in the spring. The principal trees are the palmetto, tamarind, paw-paw, mangrove, oleander, Virginian cedar, having a red wood which is very beautiful when highly polished, a few tall tufted royal palms, cocoanut palms, sago palms, umbrella, mahogany, pride of India, rubber trees and such fruit-trees as the orange, lemon, lime, cherry, loquat, sugar-apple and a tall tree bearing a kind of grape. Every negro has his banana patch. Peaches and some other fruits are not cultivated owing to the encroachments of an insect supposed to have been imported in fertilizers. Berries can be cultivated but at present there are none of any description in the islands. Water melons, musk melons, tomatoes, common potatoes, sweet potatoes and onions are the principal agricultural products. Oleanders as high as apple-trees and geraniums grow wild in hedges along the roads. The oleanders are in partial bloom all the time, but in June they are loaded with beautiful pink, white or red blossoms, pink being the most common. The double pink are called 'South sea roses.' They contain a great deal of sap which stains whatever it touches. Roses bloom at all times and a few other plants may be seen in hedges but there is no great variety of flowers.