

Cold and Frosty Mornings

"WHY don't the cows run round the paddock to get warm?" Ng. asked me one morning when the thermometer showed twelve degrees of frost. The answer of course was "Because they are cows and have cows' brains." The day will come, in one or two or ten million years, when a cow genius will discover the exercise path to comfort, but no cow has lighted on it yet. No cow, no horse, no sheep, no pig, no cat, and I think no dog. Dogs do run wildly round on frosty mornings under the stimulus of sudden liberty, and the exercise of course brings them heat; but they do the same thing on summer mornings when they are already uncomfortably hot.

It must however be remembered that wild animals are not reduced to these periods of standing and waiting which we impose on our domestic animals. When they are not sleeping they are moving about looking for food and usually are compelled to expend a good deal of energy in getting it. No one ever saw a wild buffalo waiting under a tree for a bellyful of grass or a wild pig trotting backwards and forwards on a path three yards long while he grunted and squealed for his breakfast. The first thing we do to an animal that we do not kill outright is to rob it of liberty. In return for this loss we give it food and drink; but we give these in our own time and in our own way, and it is a lucky animal that is never kept waiting. In winter waiting means standing at a gate shivering if you are a horse or a cow, lying shivering in a cold box

if you are a dog, and even if you are a sheep that no fool has robbed of its fleece, standing or lying on frozen ground till the hay or turnips arrive.

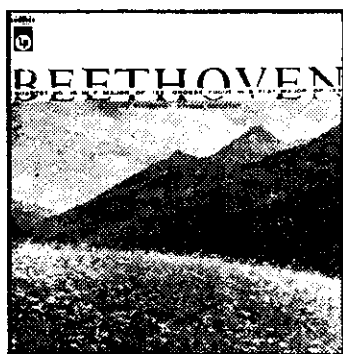
Of the animals that live always above ground wild pigs come nearer than any others I can think of to an intelligent

use of shelter. Dogs understand what to do to get away from wind and rain, but they do not deliberately cover themselves or cuddle down together. Pigs select their ground, make their beds, often a foot or more deep of dry tussock, and bury themselves close enough to one another to share the animal heat. It is a highly intelligent performance carried through without intelligence on the human level; though it is difficult not to allow some thought to an animal that makes his bed in winter in a gully in deep scrub or bush and in summer makes a new bed in the open, preferably on a ridge where the cool breezes can reach him. The only intelligence my cows show in winter is to get out of the wind where that is possible and climb on frosty nights to the dry tussocks on top of the hill. But they are not often intelligent enough to stay up there till it pleases me to call them to breakfast.



Electric fencing on high country as developed at Massey College will be discussed in the 2YA Farm Session on August 4, and the programme will be heard later from other stations. An installation which includes a wind-driven generator is shown above.

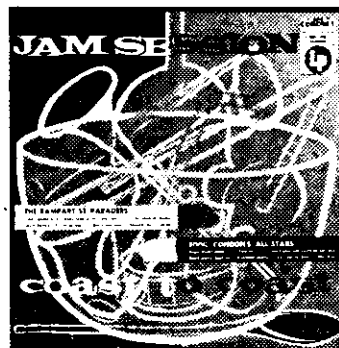
THE recent destruction by fire of four tourist hotels is a sharp reminder of the risk of carrying luxury beyond the reach of its safeguards. Whether it is necessary to make people more comfortable in the wilderness than they commonly are at home depends on whether it is necessary to bribe rich foreigners to come here to look at us. I take a dim view of tourism as a means of helping a self-reliant community, (continued on next page)



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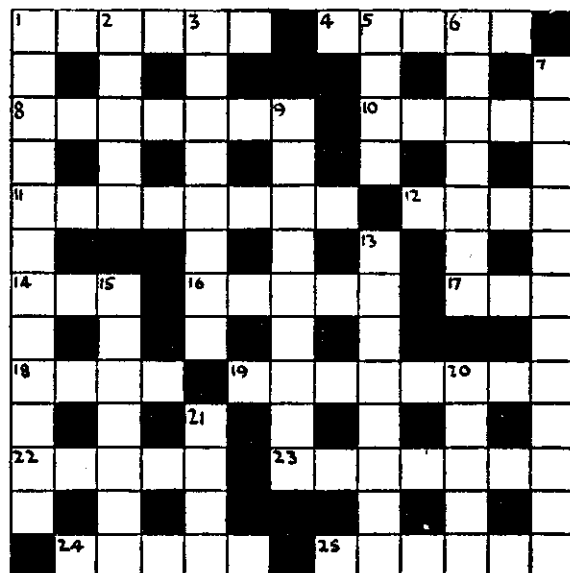
Clues Across

- 1 and 4. Some go to her for nursery rhymes (6, 5).
8. Silly creatures who frequently find themselves in the soup (7).

"THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

10. The mistake of taking fright when a letter is missing (5).
11. His suit may prove costly (8).
12. Steady business (4).
14. The vessel which provides the middle of the journey (3).
16. What you would no doubt like to do to the payment of your income tax! (5).
17. Strangely enough, it is the beginning of endeavour (3).
18. "The satirical rogue says here, that old men... have a plentiful lack of wit, together with most weak ——" (Hamlet, Act 2, Scene 2) (4).
19. I'd turn back to an artist's arrangement, with my thoughts elsewhere (8).
22. The boredom of some long-forgotten nuisance (5).
23. Nets are arranged in closest formation (7).
24. He'll get nothing by way of greeting (5).
25. Ruined, in a way, but evidently accustomed to it! (6).
6. "and all his men Gazed at each other with a wild —," (Keats) (7).
7. A tempter died (anag.). But not on the spur of the moment? (12).
9. So nine sat, feeling confused (9).
13. Keep within bounds the calm before the storm, perhaps? (8).
15. The object of a proposal (7).
20. An Eastern ruler who appears in the same era (5).
21. Do you take one when you feel it without its head? (4).

No. 911 (Constructed by R.W.H.)



Clues Down

1. Largest human contribution to crime? (12)
2. Fishy but famous quintet (5).
3. Confused clue goes to make up these pastoral dialogues (8)
5. Portent for the male sex? (4).