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ARCTIC DROPS IN

To animals as well as humans the first real snow of the winter revives unpleasant memories. The white blanket covers the whole of Britain, even the Scilly Isles. Here winter holidaymakers, in search of the usual sunshine, find conditions worse than those left on the mainland the day before.

The subtropical plant life of the islands looks strange in its white coating. In thirty years, snow has fallen twice only, on the islands.

Local bird life is completely mystified. To the flower growers of St. Mary's, the weather deals a bitter blow. Export of narcissi and daffodils is the mainstay of their livelihood. Town dwellers on the mainland will miss these familiar harbingers of spring.

Youth, alone, gives a joyous welcome to the picture postcard setting, on Scilly just as on Hampstead Heath, where sledges and toboggans are dragged up hill to give the youngsters the tremendous thrill of going down.

Transport hold-ups are the serious aspect of this weekend of winter. At Croyden airport, special snowplough squads are brought into action.

On the Kentish roads, all traffic is blown under - mild January weather has been given the lie - winter has waited awhile to come