

SNOW-BOUNDED BRITAIN.

55/18.

Snow and yet more snow is the report from every corner of Britain. Lashing North and South alike, blizzards sweep across town and country laying a treacherous blanket of ice across the face of the land. Road conditions are appalling. Down goes sand and grit on the highways as snow-ploughs attempt to clear the heavier drifts. In 64 counties roads are ice-bound and, no sooner is a pathway made open to traffic, than the blizzards strike again, bringing vehicles to a standstill.

Snowdrifts, some as deep as twenty feet, hamper farmers in their search for their livestock. To help stranded villagers and hungry animals, "Operation Snowdrop" begins again in Scotland. Royal Navy helicopter are loaded with supplies. Not a moment must be lost for the situation is reported as "far worse" than in January.

As before, code-letters scrawled in the snow tell of their needs; C is for cattle-fodder. Elsewhere medical supplies, and in some cases doctors, are being flown to isolated villages and farmhouses. In North Scotland, as in Devon and Cornwall, livestock losses are feared to be heavy - particularly sheep, for the lambing season is near.

"H" is for help: As the semi-Arctic weather grips the country, a poem, (written as an ode to the West Wind) becomes almost a national prayer: If Winter comes, Can Spring be Far Behind?

---