

## Some Improvements Are Not Needed

Washington, THE more some things are improved, it seems to me, the worse they get.

Weather forecasting is one instance. Despite great improvements in communications, instruments and techniques, today's forecasters seem to be considerably less accurate than their predecessors. In fact, I've known some farmers whose predictions were more reliable.

One was my father-in-law, Charles F. Purcell of St. Marys county. When he gazed at the sky, held up a moistened finger to check the wind direction and announced, "It's going to squall tomorrow," he was nearly always right.

He didn't need a radar, either, to tell him that rain or snow was 25 miles up the county and heading his way. He could feel it in his bones.

Perhaps what present day meteorologists need is less scientific knowledge, fewer gadgets and more sensitive bones. At any rate, when they say it isn't going to snow, it often does, and their predicted occasional flurries sometimes turn out to be blizzards.

### *Ignore Windows*

It could be, of course, that they devote too much time to staring at their sophisticated charts and instruments and not enough to looking out their windows. Or, to give them the benefit of the doubt, maybe they don't have any windows. The omission of same is one of several improvements in architecture which, in my opinion, could be done without.

Fortunately, my house has nineteen windows, not counting the one in the attic, and my wife uses them to excel-

lent advantage in preparing her weather forecasts—which, are usually more dependable than the ones heard on radio and television.

Last fall, for example, she glanced out a window and remarked: "Have you noticed how many berries there are on the dogwood and hawthorn trees? That means it's going to be a hard winter." And it has been.

More recently, the weather man on the 11 P.M. newscast assured us that it would continue to be fair and cold for the next 24 hours, at least. Weather Girl Love strolled over to a window and announced, "It feels like snow to me."

I was skeptical. "How can you tell what it feels like outside when you're inside?" I asked.

### *Sky And Wind*

"I felt it when I put out the bird feed a while ago," she explained. "I also noted the appearance of the sky and the direction of the wind. And now, seeing that haze around the street light, I say it's very likely to snow."

When we arose the next morning, there was at least three inches of snow on the ground and it was still coming down. Our favorite morning radio announcer said it had started about 4 A.M. and the Weather Bureau hadn't even hinted at such an unpleasantness until 2 A.M.

Most people who drove automobiles in the days of the hand-choke will agree with me, I'm sure, that the automatic choke is an improvement we could get along without. It fails to work when it should, continues to work when it should not.