

THE WEIGHT OF ICE-COVERED TWIGS.—On the morning of the 18th of January, 1909, the trees about Providence were covered with a thick coating of clear ice which resulted in the breaking of quite a number of branches, though not to the extent that one might have expected. The writer became interested in ascertaining the additional weight placed upon the smaller twigs by this icy coating. The figures obtained may be of interest to others who have never made accurate weighings under similar conditions. Several ice-incrusted twigs from each of three different plants were selected. Those from the Lilac and Apple were cut from unbroken branches. Those from the Elm were picked up from beneath the tree, although there were hundreds of unbroken twigs on the tree, just out of reach, having apparently even more ice on them.

The ice-covered twigs were weighed and after the ice had melted a second series of weighings were made of the surface-dried twigs. The results may briefly be enumerated as follows:—

The weight added to the Lilac, when compared with the surface dried twig, ranged from 244 to 757 per cent., except in one case where a large portion of the twig was found to have been dead and dried before the icy coating formed; in this case the percentage was 1330. The percentage of additional weight in the case of the Apple was from 633 to 983, and in the Elm from 1133 to 2470.—J. FRANKLIN COLLINS, Providence, Rhode Island.

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