SNOW In gently undulating banks It lies a mantle on the scene: The child awakes and looks in awe At fields that yesterday were green. For overnight, with stealth and quiet, Intending to surprize us all, An unseen hand has changed the world: Behold! the winter's first snowfall. Lanes, white ribbons, thread their way 'Twixt hedgerows canopied with snow. The crystal beauty, unadorned, Creates a luminescent glow. Chimney-pots wear tam-o-shanters, Gateposts stand sentry, etched in white; Window-sills enwrapped and glistening, Translucent icicles shine bright. Sparrows, larks, red-breasted robins, Feathers fluffed out, downy, soft, Footprinting a lacework trellis In their wake, then soar aloft. Amid the cold, unbending boughs, Birds flutter, hopping to and fro From nest to earth in search of food That now is hidden 'neath the snow. A pale sun plays at hide-and-seek, Faint dwindling rays that lightly kiss The trees, the loam, the blades of grass; The child, in wonder, sees all this.