

To be sure, the Soviet Union is not the only country that has trade relations with Argentina. The United States does considerable business with Perón.

The current line of Ambassador Messersmith toward the Argentine government seems to many to be just as repugnant as the fawning attitude of the real ambassador of Soviet Russia in Argentina — the Argentine Communist Party. In both cases the primary considerations seem to be

purely commercial. But the American Federation of Labor does not consider the policy of the State Department an excuse to falsify the evidence of its own observers and desert the democratic trade unionists in Argentina, who are still fighting as best they can.

The democratic forces in Argentina have been greatly encouraged by the publication of the AFL report. They hope that it will help to make the Argentine people aware of what has really happened to them.

## WINTER LETTER

BY FRANCES FROST

Wherever you are on the face of the earth,  
come home.

In whatever time zone, latitude, longitude,  
set sail, spread wing, but come.

The snow is deep this year upon the mountains,  
icicles drip from the eaves  
in the morning sun but the house is warm for the cellar  
is banked with leaves.

Smoke rises straight from the kitchen chimney, the cat  
has a new batch of kittens  
behind the stove, and shoveling out to the barn  
one needs two pairs of mittens.

Wherever you are, on whatever island spattered  
by the flowers of foam,  
embark with your box of the past and your disciplined heart:  
come home.

# FACTS ABOUT NERVOUS HEART

BY LOUISE CROSS

**D**URING the war, doctors in the armed forces frequently had to treat inductees with symptoms which laymen usually connect with heart trouble: chest pains, breathlessness, heart murmur, chronic fatigue, sensations of pounding in the chest and neck, and the like. Examinations would often show, however, that the heart was organically sound. These men, victims of the exceptional adjustment demands abruptly placed on them by Army or Navy life, were suffering from the ailment known as "nervous heart."

Nervous heart is a functional ailment rather than an organic one: the heart in these cases is organically sound and intrinsically normal. This is not to say that nervous heart is "just nervousness," that the patient is malingering or afflicted only in his imagination. Nervous heart is a real sickness with characteristic symptoms; but these symptoms are the result of an illness of the total personality, of mind as well as body. In one patient, the more important element leading to nervous heart may be poor general

health, careless living habits, an easily upset nervous system; and very little mental strain will then bring on nervous illness. In another patient, strong and healthy, the decisive factor may be mental: he may have a long history of difficult problems incompletely understood, or be affected by a sudden tremendous piling-up of mental strain.

To understand the nature of nervous heart we must first analyze the structure of the human nervous system. This may be divided into two closely-interrelated parts, the central and the sympathetic.

The central nervous system functions in connection with conscious, voluntary processes. It includes the brain and what are known as the sensory and motor nerves. The sensory nerves carry to our brain "information" from the outside world, or from the body, in terms of vision, smell, pain or cold. The motor nerves carry "directions" from the brain to the body: to jump, to move an arm or finger, or carry out other actions. The brain itself "registers" the mes-

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**LOUISE CROSS** is a medical illustrator and prosthetist. She has contributed numerous articles on medical subjects to general magazines, including "What Doctors Know about Glaucoma," which appeared in *THE AMERICAN MERCURY* of November 1946. The information in this article has been authenticated by several cardiologists.