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COLD COMFORT

Freeze-up at Wimbledon Common, and young and old, experts and learners are out for a spell on the ice. But for most of us, sub-zero weather is a time of running noses and burst water pipes. There are moments of course when you can be in an awful hole.

It's a great life on the ice; but for real cold comfort, you need a spot of padding in the right places.

In the Austrian mountains, it's winter on the grand scale. British Army and R.A.F. men have a school here for mountaineering and skiing. When you're seven thousand feet up, the thing to do is to move fast.

Austrian champions and amateur skiers provided tough opposition, but the Army and R.A.F. boys gave 'em a good run for their money.

Hold on to those chattering teeth for this story from Sweden. It's Bathers' Day and while the ice is being broken, you cook yourself in the steam bath to open the pores. Then you shut 'em up again with a brisk romp in the snow.

And then you skip back for another go in the steam - if you're still alive.

The women do it, too, and it's a good way to get yourself that nice blus complexion. The Bathing Club has 600 members and they all say it's very healthy - but, oh boy, is it cold.