

THEY SAY—

Letters must be short, interesting and signed.

Straight Science, Uncolored

J. J. Arnaud, patent attorney, South Milwaukee, Wis., writes:

As soon as Science News-Letter was brought to my attention I subscribed immediately; and am extremely pleased with the excellent quality of your weekly.

I have for some time been turning over my copies, as I finish them, to the instructor in physics and chemistry in the high school of this town, a most estimable gentleman of culture and refinement.

Very recently he told me that he has been reading to his classes such parts as they can understand, and finds that, with your very simple presentations of scientific progress, he succeeds in holding their attention and stimulating their interest. "You know," he added, "most of the so-called 'Popular Science' is a sad mixture of a modicum of truth with a lot of nonsense, all presented in the most sensational way. I find the students very soon tire of such magazines; especially as, to be strictly correct, I have to modify or negative many of their statements. It does not do to read them something, and then discount half of it. They lose faith in all the rest. But I find they look forward to Science News-Letter with eager interest. They like it because it's straight science, uncolored, and told in way they can readily grasp. It flatters them that they can understand science that is not 'written down' to the general public." A shrewd remark, that last!

Developed

L. L. Dickerson of the American Library Association:

This News-Letter has developed into one of the most interesting little magazines I have ever run across.

Enormous Value

W. L. Spencer, director of secondary education, Alabama Department of Education, in a letter to his principals:

The Science News-Letter will be of enormous value to science classes and teachers. I recommend it most highly.

Science News-Letter, February 19, 1927

Health measures are held mainly responsible for the decline in diphtheria deaths in New York State, from 6,500 in 1888 to 700 in 1926.

Pieces of suet tied to trees in cold weather are appreciated as heat producing food by woodpeckers, chickadees, brown creepers, and other birds.

Order gladioli early

GLORIOUS colors and big flowers delight everyone who plants Kunderd Gladioli. This year my catalog lists many new varieties as well as my famous Ruffled, Laciniated and Primulinus Hybrids. Write for my free catalog now and order early. The book is full of interesting garden lore, is illustrated in colors and contains full cultural directions.

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Parents Land Immunity

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immunized sheep. To obtain the best results it should be administered the first day of the disease, when the temperature begins to rise. He claims that the serum administered at this time prevents measles and finishes the fever after 24 to 36 hours or else modifies the disease to a very mild form. In both cases a lasting immunity follows. The serum is on the market in Germany and is being tried out experimentally in England and other countries.

Science News-Letter, February 19, 1927

Water lilies are favorite food of wild ducks.

An automobile that can be run sideways has been invented to make parking easier.

During a recent storm in France the rain contained sand that had blown from Africa.

Doctors of the late Stone Age practised surgery with considerable skill and success.

A new steel which is hard on the surface and soft inside is said to be cheaper than alloys in use.

It is estimated that 500 million tons of helium are going to waste in this country every year.

A case of eruption strikingly like smallpox was discovered in an Egyptian mummy of about 1200 B. C.

Explorers from the British Museum found two bronze water pumps buried on the site of an ancient Etruscan city.

White ants of the tropics work in such armies that they sometimes destroy an entire building in a day.

A Nuremberg man who invented a ticking clock, in 1840, was accused of witchcraft by his wife and his neighbors.

One of New York's newest skyscrapers burns enough coal in a day to heat four average sized homes all winter.

The oriental peach moth, which probably came to this country from Japan about 1913, is becoming a serious fruit tree pest.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is studying the cost of snow removal in different states, to find the best and cheapest methods.

Nature Ramblings

(Continued from page 119)

woodpecker, which are one-purpose toes; and his stiff little beak, though no chisel like that of his bigger neighbor, is plenty good enough to act as a pair of tweezers for dragging his prey out to where he can devour it in comfort.

The nuthatch is a pretty little fellow, too: black on head and shoulders, blue on back and wings, white underneath except well aft, where he is ruddy-tinged. He's not a singer, though; his conversation is confined to a nasal "h'rank-h'rank!" and even his spring song sounds, as one observer has said, "strangely like mirthless laughter." But though his voice is not musical, his flights from trunk to trunk are short lyrics for those who can appreciate poetry in motion. They are a series of swift, dipping little rushes, staves of staccato wingbeats, a winter scherzo of the woods.

Science News-Letter, February 19, 1927

Fishes sometimes get sea-sick from train travel.

The population of the United States will be 118,628,000 by July 1, 1927, according to census estimates.

Men immigrants outnumbered women coming to this country in every year from 1820 to 1923, except in 1922.

New train equipment to make fish comfortable when traveling is expected to reduce mortality among adult fishes on long distance journeys.

Scientific Poetry Contest

Dust off your riming dictionaries, rumple up the pages of your favorite physics, chemistry or biology, set your poetry mill to working. For the Science News-Letter invites you to feed its omnivorous appetite with tidbits in which poetry and science are pleasingly combined. The scientific poetry contest is on!

Conditions: Poems, verses, rimes, jingles or what-have-you must be original and unpublished. They must express accurately some scientific fact or situation. Address: Poetry Editor, Science Service, 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C. Keep a copy, as unavailable contributions can not be returned.

Prizes: One poem will be published each week beginning with the issue of March 5. A prize of \$5.00 will be paid for each poem published.