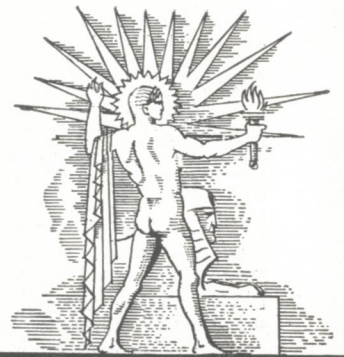


# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



NOVEMBER 14, 1931

Overshadowing the Tallest Skyscraper

See Page 316

A

SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XX

No. 553

The Weekly  
Summary of



Current  
Science

Published by

## SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

Subscription rates—\$5.00 a year postpaid; two years, \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy.

In requesting change of address, please give old as well as new address.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

### Board of Trustees of Science Service

*Honorary President.* William E. Ritter, University of California. Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science. J. McKeen Cattell, *President*, Editor, Science, Garrison, N. Y.; Burton E. Livingston, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Raymond Pearl, Director, Institute for Biological Research, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. Representing the National Academy of Sciences. W. H. Howell, *Vice-President* and *Chairman of Executive Committee*, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; David White, Senior Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey. Representing National Research Council, Vernon Kellogg, Permanent Secretary, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe, Editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Representing Journalistic Profession, John H. Finley, Associate Editor, New York Times; Mark Sullivan, Writer, Washington, D. C.; Marlen E. Pew, Editor of Editor and Publisher, New York City. Representing E. W. Scripps Estate, Harry L. Smithton, *Treasurer*, Cincinnati, Ohio; Robert P. Scripps, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, West Chester, Ohio; Thomas L. Sidlo, Cleveland, Ohio.

### Staff of Science Service

Managing Editor, Watson Davis; Staff writers: Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, J. W. Young, D. Lindsay Watson; Librarian, Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

Copyright, 1931, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited since it is distributed for personal, school, club or library use only. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service, details and samples of which will gladly be sent on request.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have the privilege of subscribing to the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at the reduced price of \$3 per year. Application for this privilege should be accompanied by privilege card obtained from the Permanent Secretary, A. A. S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Publication Office, 1930 Clifton Ave., Baltimore, Md. Editorial and Executive Office, Constitution Ave. at 21st St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Address all communications to Washington, D. C. Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.

Entered as second class matter October 1, 1926, at the post-office at Baltimore, Md., under the act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trade-mark, U. S. Patent Office.

?

## DO YOU KNOW THAT

?

Turning out a loaf of bread in 12 minutes was recently achieved in a demonstration.

Peanut shells as a source of artificial silk are being investigated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

When a bullfrog swims, it draws its bulging eyes back into their sockets for their protection.

London now has an official who decides each day how much fresh air should be admitted to street cars, and the windows are locked in that position for the day.

In one of New York's newest hotels, guests are protected from vibration by lead-asbestos anti-vibration pads under each of the column footings of the building.

City ordinances limiting height of office buildings are commonplace these days, but Honolulu has an unusual rule: grass huts, used by business firms to capture the old-time native atmosphere, must not exceed 600 square feet in area.

A temperature of approximately freezing, or a degree or two below, is best for keeping stored apples.

Rocks or rock mixtures are found to have possibilities as raw material for the manufacture of rock wool, an effective insulating material.

There are 32,000,000 persons in the United States who drive automobiles, of which number 22,000,000 have taken no test of driving ability.

The birth rate per 1,000 population for the registration areas of the United States has declined from about 24 in 1921 to less than 19.

A European fad, similar to the more familiar keeping of goldfish in an aquarium, is to have a cage containing frogs and lizards, says Karl P. Schmidt, of the Field Museum.

Viewing motion pictures causes less eye strain than reading a book for a similar length of time, says an officer of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

ARCHAEOLOGY		MATHEMATICS	
Ancient Shawls Pass Tests	312	Key to Quantum Theory?	313
Cemetery of Unknown Race	309	MEDICINE	
ASTRONOMY		Lister's Antiseptic Treatment—"A	
Celestial Collision	318	Classic of Science"	314
Comet Returning	312	Outwitting Climate	310
BOTANY		Take Care of Paralysis Victims	313
Late Violets—"Nature Ramblings"	319	METALLURGY	
CHEMISTRY		New Radium Find	308
Protecting Army Rifles	313	METEOROLOGY	
EMBRYOLOGY		Orthodox "Dust Devils"	308
Why Twins Differ	307	PHYSICS	
ENGINEERING		Forming Large Molecules	318
Better Lubricants Needed	312	Stray Electricity	313
Building Homes of Steel	309	To Standardize Colors	307
ETHNOLOGY		Wind Effect on Skyscrapers	316
Meteors as Dead Souls	313	PHYSIOLOGY	
GENERAL SCIENCE		Making Vitamin A	308
First Glances at New Books	320	VITAL STATISTICS	
GEOLOGY		Health Record for 1931	312
Glacial Diamonds	312		

Science Service presents over the radio, an address

### THE UNITY OF LIFE

By Dr. C. E. McClung, professor of zoology at the University of Pennsylvania and prominent cytologist.

Friday, November 20, at 3:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time

Over Stations of

The Columbia Broadcasting System

# This is the reason for this remarkable book

**Y**OU are writing to express your objection to the policy a friend is pursuing. Naturally, it requires tact. What word expresses the explicit degree of your disapproval? Shall you admonish or criticize? Rebuke or reprimand? Or is there a better word you can't recall at the moment?

Turn to March and choose, in a few seconds, your exact word from the 72 verbs in our language expressing *disapproval*.



The business man finds through it a new clarity and forcefulness in presentation of ideas.

**T**HIS is the essence of the great helpfulness of this Treasure House of Words and Knowledge—March's Thesaurus Dictionary.

The use of the right word is of utmost importance. For words have amazing powers. They launch great corporations, move nations, change history. To their skilled masters they bring the world's richest treasures.

But every day men lose opportunities, lose prestige, fail because of unwise choice of their words. The world judges *you* by your words. Dream great dreams, conceive big ideas, but if you can't express them clearly you achieve an undeserved reputation for loose thinking.

**W**ITH such power awaiting one's command, why has it seemingly been locked beyond reach? With all of the rich expressiveness of the English Language, how utterly exasperating not to be able to remember or find the one word to visualize an important idea, or express your exact shade of meaning!



To the educator it offers the ideal method of teaching better choice of words.

From the time of Dr. Johnson's first Dictionary to the present, lexicographers have said, in effect, "If you know the word, here is its meaning." The ordinary thesaurus, book of synonyms, or vocabulary book has fallen short of real usefulness

by either giving no meanings to the words listed or offering fragmentary definitions of little value.

It took a man with the experience and knowledge of Professor Francis Andrew March, a philologist of unquestionable authority, to give to the world this book which truly unlocks the language—which not only guides the user to the right word, but defines it so clearly that there is no doubt of its meaning and fitness for his purpose—March's Thesaurus Dictionary.

**C**ONSIDER what March offers you. Instead of a vocabulary limited by your memory, it places the whole living language at your command. Instead of "blind man's buff" hunting or guessing, you merely flip a few pages and have the word you need, grouped with related words, *clearly defined*, with words of opposite meaning in adjoining columns.



To the writer it is an unending source of inspiration.

*With arrow-like directness and speed, it gives you the power of the right word.*

This is why thousands of copies are being used in business and professional offices, as well as in schools and homes.

This is why a leading writer's publication advised its readers that if they could afford but one book to select March's Thesaurus Dictionary.

This new Edition, with the Amplified and Revised Appendix, contains many additional word facts. The important words of leading arts and sciences, for instance, compiled by Science Service, Inc. Complete chapters on Grammar, Composition, Word Derivations, Geographic Facts and Americana.



The ideal reference book for the home.

The coupon below offers you the opportunity to

**Test March in your own home or office—at our risk.**

See for yourself what complete mastery of the language its 1462 pages give you. Try it for ten days on your word questions.

If you don't find in that time that it has become indispensable, you have but to return it and the trial has cost you nothing.

## HISTORICAL PUBLISHING CO.

Dept. SC-11, 1334 Cherry Street, Philadelphia Pa.

Please send me (postpaid in U. S.—express paid in Canada) the new Amplified Edition of March's Thesaurus Dictionary. I will pay \$3.75 on delivery, and if I keep the book will pay you \$2.00 per month for three months. Canada, duty extra; Foreign, \$10.00 cash with order.

If for any reason I do not wish to keep it, I will return it in good condition within 10 days and you are to refund me \$3.75.

Name .....

Address .....

