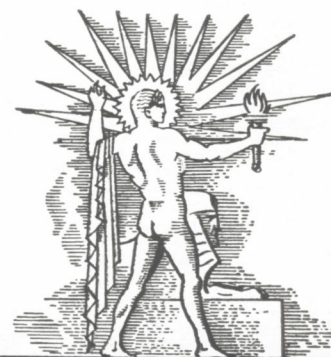
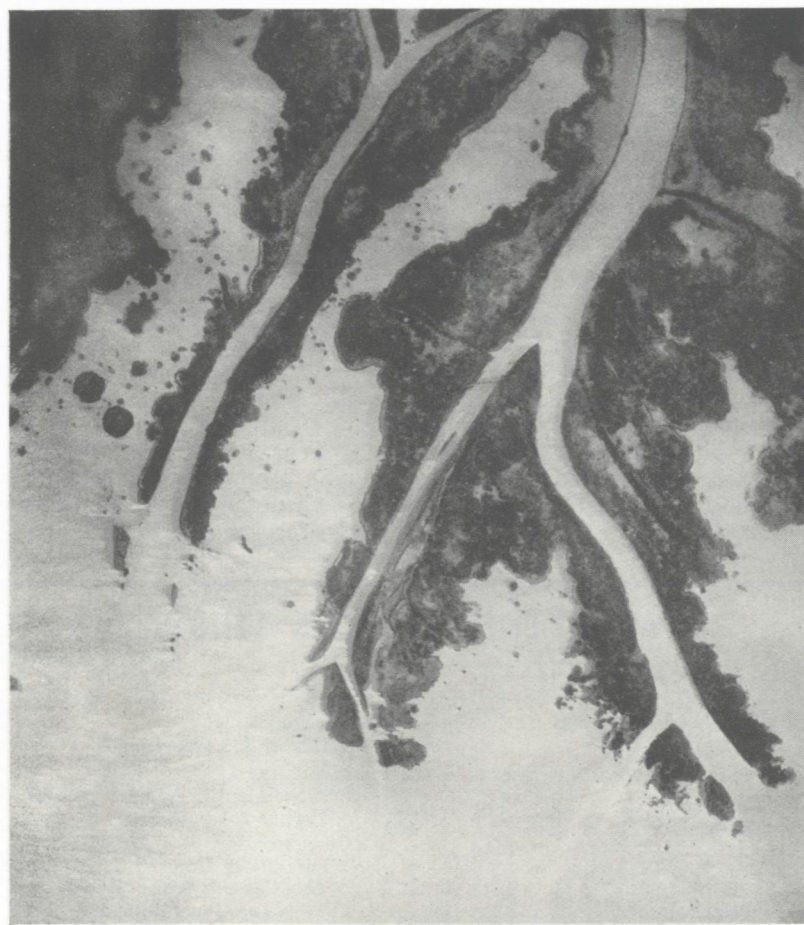


SCIENCE REVIEW OF THE YEAR

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE



DECEMBER 26, 1931

Lengthening Robber Fingers

See Page 414

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## DO YOU KNOW THAT

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The Field Museum of Natural History displays an old Chinese painting of beggars and street performers which tells a story of a Chinese depression and famine about a thousand years ago.

An X-ray tube that takes a snapshot in one-thousandth of a second has made its debut.

Spanish adventurers brought the lemon to America.

Because it looked like a foreign code message, the periodic chart of the elements was recently refused admission to Russia by Soviet mail censors.

School sickness is a disease as real as measles, says a government health specialist, who finds that many children suffer from this "sickness," which is characterized by nervousness, irritability, fear, and restlessness, and which is traced to pressure in classrooms.

It is reported that many of the everyday electrical appliances which have always been produced in black material are due to blossom out in white, ivory and gay colors, since synthetic urea plastics have reached a commercial stage where they are approximately interchangeable in cost and practicability with the familiar black phenolic molding plastics.

When alligators are fishing, the flapping of their tails on the water may be heard half a mile away.

Catfish are so called, not because they look like cats, but because they make a purring sound when taken out of the water.

There is no detectable sex difference in memory abilities between men and women or boys and girls, psychologists at the University of California report.

The biggest sturgeon in the Great Lakes weigh 200 pounds or more and measure as much as eight feet in length, which accounts for the fact that excited observers sometimes mistake them for sea serpents.

For the first time on record, the stream of migration has turned away from United States shores, departures of aliens exceeding arrivals by 22,769, in the first nine months of 1931.

Quinine was first isolated from cinchona bark in 1820, but the bark was used in medicine hundreds of years before that.

Tests show that the total cost of running a car over a smooth surface road is about one cent less per mile than the cost on plain gravel.

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Science Service presents over the radio, an address

### SIMPLIFICATION OF THE CALENDAR

By Dr. Charles F. Marvin, Chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Friday, January 1, at 3:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time

Over Stations of

The Columbia Broadcasting System