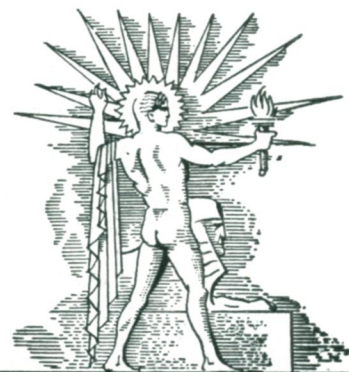
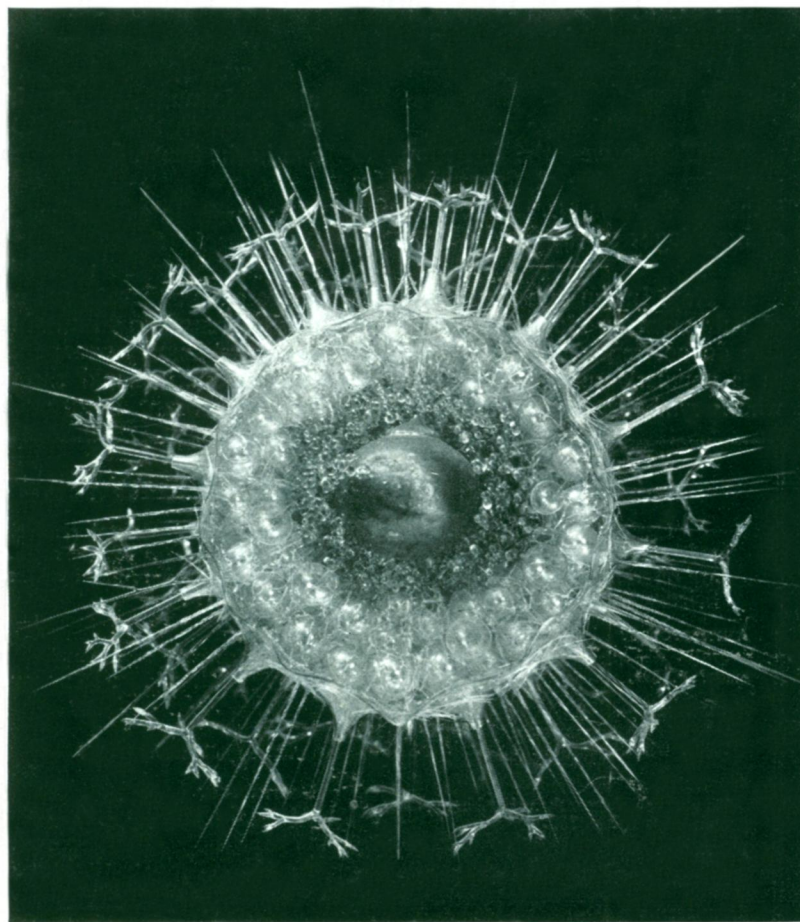


PRICE  
15¢

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



DECEMBER 17, 1932

Like a Jewel from Fairyland

See Page 389

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XXII

No. 610

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. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

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*, Secretary Emeritus, 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; *librarian*, Minna Gill; *Sales and Advertising Manager*, Hallie Jenkins.

Copyright, 1932, 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. and Canadian Patent Offices.

?

## DO YOU KNOW THAT

?

Brazil nuts, popular in other lands, are not eaten in Brazil.

India produces a wild silk, using silkworms that feed on leaves of the castor-oil plant.

Humming-birds are famous for their small size, but there is a giant humming-bird that attains a length of over nine inches.

In the cotton growing states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, physicians' net incomes dropped 50 per cent. in 1930.

The hazard of ocean liners colliding at night is reduced by a new funnel rising 68 feet above the top deck and brightly flood-lighted.

The Chinese were the first people to recognize the value of fingerprints for identification, says Dr. Berthold Laufer, anthropologist of the Field Museum.

A Hopi Indian says that the whorls of hair worn by Hopi girls over their ears do not represent squash blossoms, as is popularly supposed, but that the whorls symbolize butterfly wings.

The Senate Building of ancient Rome has been restored by Italian archaeologists, after many years of careful work.

One of the economic problems of modern medicine is that physicians normally collect only 80 per cent. of their charges.

A newly discovered cave in Maryland contains in its passageways unusual stalactite growths, some resembling convolutions of the brain.

Scientists who have been measuring the temperatures of snakes play safe by using an electric thermometer on the end of a bamboo pole.

Between 1920 and 1930, negro population in northern states increased 63 per cent.; in the West, 53 per cent. and in the South, five per cent.

Research into laundry methods, at Pennsylvania State College, have developed the standards that fabrics should not lose more than 25 per cent. of their tensile strength in 50 washings, or about two years' laundry wear; and that wools and silks should shrink no more than 10 per cent. in 20 washings.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

Curiosity arousing questions for the teacher and general reader. Book references in italic type are not sources of information of the article, but are references for further reading. Books cited can be supplied by Librarian, Science Service, at publisher's price, prepaid in U. S.

### ANTHROPOLOGY

Where was the latest Palestine Man find made? p. 395.

### ASTRONOMY

When is the sunspot cycle shortened? p. 393.  
When will Regulus be occulted? p. 384.

### AVIATION

How much faster than bombing planes do pursuit ships fly? p. 388.

### CHEMISTRY

Is cyanide poisoning necessarily fatal? p. 395.

### ENGINEERING

When should a dirt road be left undragged? p. 388.

### ENTOMOLOGY

What does an insect's skeleton weigh? p. 392.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

Will governmental reorganization hurt research? p. 383.

### GEOGRAPHY

How did a heat wave help Arctic navigation? p. 385.

### INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT

What is Kmh? p. 389.

### MEDICINE

Who first made pure epinephrin? p. 391. *A Textbook of Physiology—W. H. Howell—Saunders, 1931, \$6.50.*

### NUTRITION

What spoils teeth? p. 393

### ORNITHOLOGY

How can you best befriend the birds? p. 395.

### PHYSICS

What are cosmic rays made of? p. 384.

### PHYSIOLOGY

Is beer intoxicating? p. 387. *Alcohol and Man—Haven Emerson—Macmillan, 1932, \$3.50.*  
Will cigarettes give you cancer? p. 390.

### PSYCHOLOGY

Who wants triplets? p. 388.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Did the depression boost the pellagra rate? p. 386.  
Is influenza spreading? p. 389.

### ZOOLOGY

What is the object depicted on the front cover? p. 389. *Biology of the Protozoa—Gary N. Calkins—Lea and Febiger, 1926, \$7.50.*