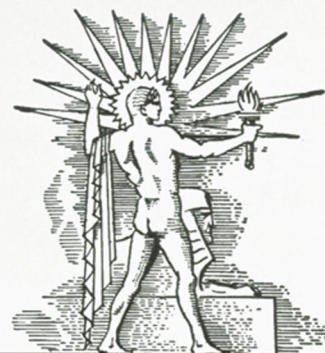


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Playmates

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DO YOU KNOW?

The oldest known maps of cities are from Mesopotamia.

Whether ivy poisoning ever causes death is a question which doctors have not settled.

Sitka spruce has such qualities of resonance that it is much used for piano sound boards and organ pipes.

One of the many puzzling facts about cancer is that this widespread disease is apparently unknown in the district of Lahul, India.

In the epidemic of 1770 and 1771, three million people died of smallpox in the East Indies.

The spectacled bear of the Andes Mountains has light rings around its eyes, very much like glasses.

A life insurance company in the west found that, out of 6,200 children, only 24 per cent. had been immunized against diphtheria.

A tunnel under the Straits of Gibraltar, to link Europe with Africa, is again being promoted.

It is estimated that from two to four per cent. of the people in this country are afflicted with heart disease.

Pairs of linen gloves were among the clothing of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen who lived in the fourteenth century B. C.

When the giant water lily, the *Victoria regia*, blooms it has been observed to give off heat 14 degrees centigrade above the surrounding air.

A government scientist found that a layer of chromium no thicker than four ten-thousandths of an inch will lengthen the life of the rifling in guns.

Rosin, tar, and turpentine came to be called "naval stores" in the days when sailing vessels used pine tar to waterproof ropes and sails and other parts of ships.

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These curiosity-arousing questions show at a glance the wide field of scientific activity from which this week's news comes. 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 Book Dept., Science News Letter, at publishers' prices, prepaid in the United States.