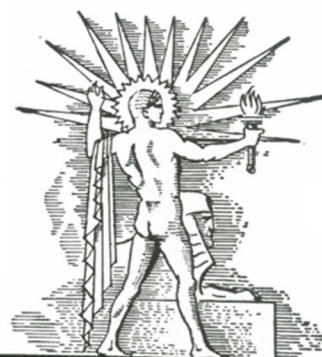
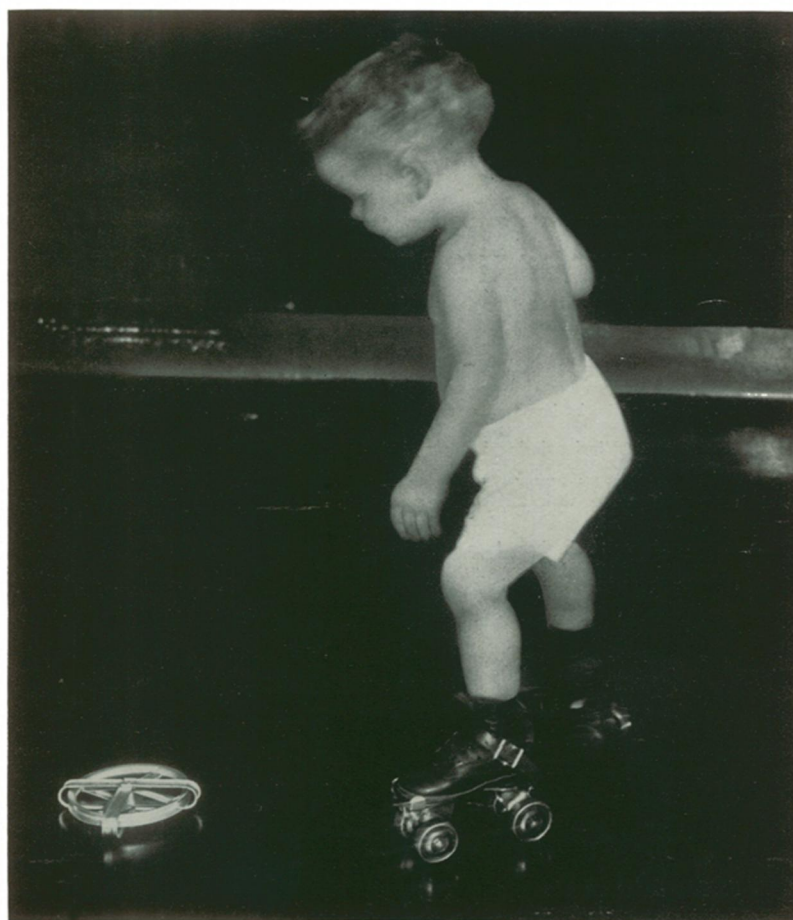


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# SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



DECEMBER, 9, 1933

Skating at 18 Months

See Page 378

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## DO YOU KNOW?

It has been said that quinine did for medicine what gunpowder did for war.

A herd of bison transferred north to Alaska five years ago is now more than doubled in number.

Racing yachts made of aluminum may be an improvement on wooden hulls, a British inventor believes.

A Roman food shop, remarkably complete in its contents and fittings, has been discovered in Herculaneum.

Broken bits of pottery served the Egyptians as "scratch paper" on which to keep accounts, write notes, and give receipts.

The cold cream invented by the Roman physician Galen almost 1,800 years ago is not very different from the modern formula.

Russet oranges are not sweeter than bright ones, according to analyses by government scientists.

Arica, Chile, has the name of being the world's driest town, its average rainfall is a fraction of an inch in a whole year.

The spider known as the black widow has a seriously poisonous bite, but is so timid that she usually tries to retreat when disturbed.

Palestine has its first radium institute since Prof. Ludwig Halberstaedter of Berlin has arrived to take the chair of radiology in the Hebrew University.

Jivaro Indians of the Amazon jungle make musical instruments modeled after the white man's violin, carved out of native wood and fitted with strings of palm fiber.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

### AGRICULTURE

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### ARCHAEOLOGY

How did the Greeks immortalize their gods? p. 371.

What lost de Vinci painting is reported discovered? p. 372.

Where will Public Works laborers repair abandoned homes of their forefathers? p. 373.

### ASTRONOMY

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How much matter is there in average space? p. 382.

Why may stars be closer than previous estimates indicate? p. 383.

Why would the earth appear to have bluish cast to a person looking from the moon? p. 376.

Will the sun ever become a new star? p. 377.

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When does the Arctic get enough ultraviolet? p. 375.

### ASTROPHYSICS

Why is the atmosphere of a hot star opaque? p. 381.

### BIOLOGY

What animals lived longer but had fewer offspring when their feeding was reduced? p. 377.

### BOTANY

Is a grapefruit a cross between an orange and a lemon? p. 383. *The Botany of Crop Plants*—Wilfred W. Robbins—Blakiston's, 1931, \$4.

### CHEMISTRY

What dye detects lead poisons? p. 381.

Why do so-called safe dry cleaning fluids sometimes explode? p. 377.

### MEDICINE

What does encephalitis mean? p. 380.

### METEOROLOGY

How may trees be protected from lightning? p. 381.

What is a "battle line" weather map? p. 371. *The Drama of Weather*—Sir Napier Shaw—Macmillan, 1933, \$3.50.

What is the age of tree rings recently studied by Dr. Douglass? p. 376.

### NATURE STUDY

When do pronghorn antelope become fierce fighters? p. 377—*Our Wilderness Neighbors*—Dorr G. Yeager—McClurg, 1931, \$1.25.

### PALEONTOLOGY

When did monkey-like animals live in the Dakota Badlands? p. 376. *A History of Land Mammals in the Western Hemisphere*—William B. Scott, Macmillan, 1924, \$6.50.

Where has a ram been kept in cold storage for years? p. 373.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What part of the body harbors absorbed radium? p. 384.

### PSYCHOLOGY

Can an infant chin the bar? p. 378. *The First Two Years*—Mary M. Shirley—Univ. of Minn., 1931, Vol. 1, \$2.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

How may cheap boned chicken be given the appearance of good quality? p. 374. *One Hundred Million Guinea Pigs*—Arthur Kallet and F. J. Schlink—Vanguard, 1933, \$2.

### RADIO

How long does it take molecules to relax? p. 372.

### RADIO-ASTRONOMY

Why is radio reception so good? p. 373.

### VOLCANOLOGY

What is the height of Mauna Loa? p. 377.

*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 for 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.*