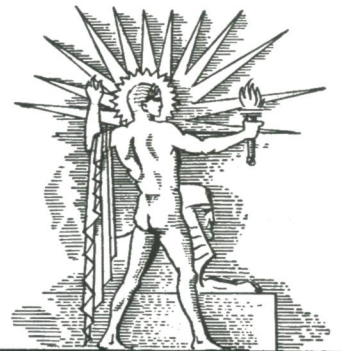
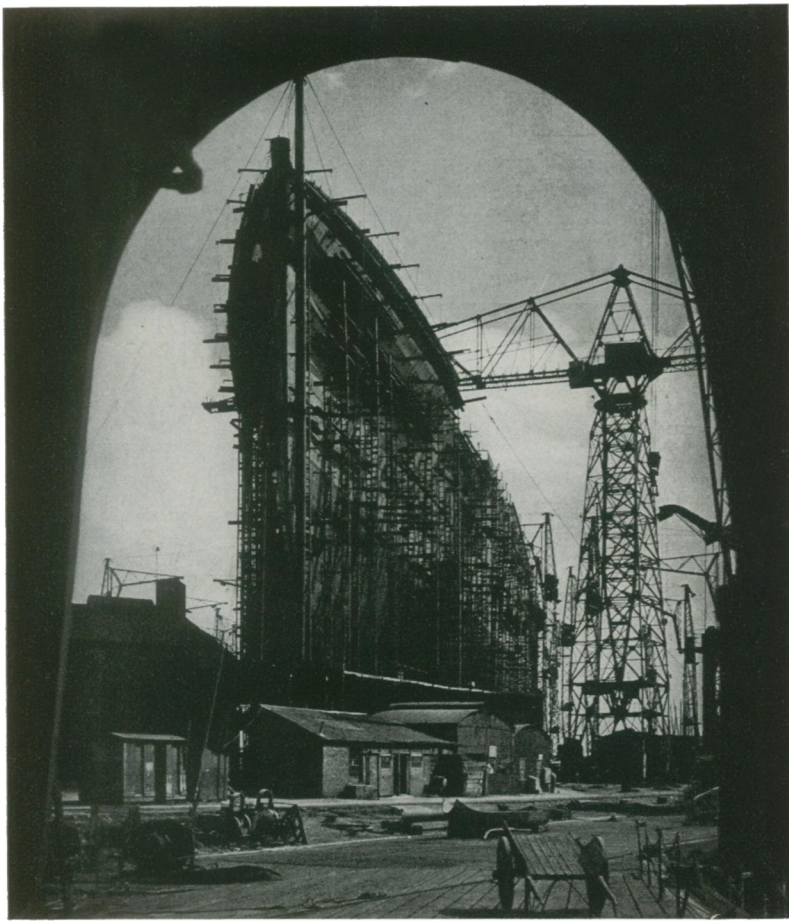


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



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## DO YOU KNOW?

Panama is appropriately named from an Indian word meaning "abounding in fish."

Where water used in dishwashing is hard, it can be effectively softened with sodium metaphosphate.

The Bureau of Mines has developed an improved apparatus and method for determining the helium content in natural gas.

A western arbutus that grows to tree size is sometimes so completely attacked by a leaf-killing fungus that it is completely defoliated.

California's most important lumber tree, the ponderosa pine, is endangered by a disease called twig blight now active in the Southwest.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has planted an herb garden at its Gothic branch, to resemble gardens in medieval monasteries.

There probably are fewer than 100 trumpeter swans left in the United States.

British records of drought go back to the year 298 A.D., when there was a drought in Wales.

An appeal has been launched in England for preservation of the historical antiquities on the Island of Cyprus, now in a state of neglect.

Goajira Indians of Colombia manufacture poison for arrows by mixing a pulp of spiders, centipedes, scorpions, and the venom of snakes.

Excavations in the ancient market place of Athens have yielded no less than 31,600 coins dating from sixth century B.C. to modern times.

Among the medical exhibits at the Chicago Fair is the medicine kit carried by Stanley when he hunted for Livingstone in Africa in 1887.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

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## ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Are male monkeys masterful? p. 184.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

What is the mystery of the Sacred Well? p. 182. *The History of the Maya*—Thomas Gann and J. Eric Thompson—Scribner's, 1931, \$2.50.

## ASTRONOMY

How does alcohol aid in keeping the stars in order? p. 185.

## CHEMISTRY

What is the first chemical element to be isolated in the United States? p. 182.

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What causes the retina of the eye to become detached? p. 182.

What effect does sleeping sickness have on the intelligence? p. 185.

What effect has the enzyme arginase? p. 181.

What vitamin is valuable in treating pyorrhea? p. 179. *The Vitamins*—H. C. Sherman and S. L. Smith—Chem. Cat. Co., second ed., 1931, \$6.

## METALLURGY

How does nature do copper plating? p. 184.

## METEOROLOGY

What starts the procession of hurricanes in the fall? p. 183. *Why the Weather?*—Charles F. Brooks—Harcourt, Brace, 1924, \$2.

## NATURE STUDY

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## PHYSICS

Where is the world's hottest spot? p. 185.

## PSYCHOLOGY

Does the sound of a word make it pleasant? p. 191.

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Is the chimpanzee's "thinking" of the random trial-and-error variety? p. 184.

What profession is held in highest esteem? p. 185.

Why is an electric current direct to the brain painless? p. 190.

Why should the young child's diet contain plenty of meat? p. 185.

*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 references for further reading. Books cited can be supplied by Book Department, Science News Letter, at publishers' prices, postpaid in the United States.*