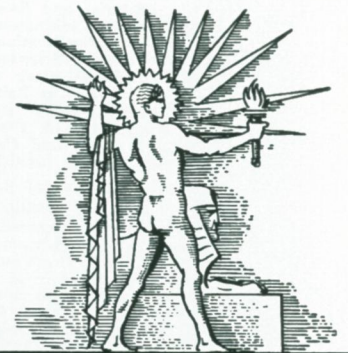


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



FEBRUARY 16, 1935

The Ducks Come Back

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SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

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## DO YOU KNOW?

Germany, Scotland, and England are all waging war on muskrats.

An aviator made a flight in Alaska, January 1934, when the thermometer was 71 degrees below zero.

Old Spanish records show that the Navajo Indians were making and selling their famous blankets about 200 years ago.

Chile's nitrate industry has strongly revived in the past year, since foreign supplies of nitrate have dwindled and the demand increased.

A British company has produced a plastic material from which to make transparent, colorless dishes and other objects, attractively engraved in glassware patterns.

The Government is considering the advisability of quarantining Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York to prohibit elm trees or elm wood products from being moved out of these states, in an effort to stop the spread of the Dutch elm disease.

Aluminum finished by a new process has greatly increased reflecting properties.

Holland's Noord Zee Canal has navigation locks bigger even than those of the Panama Canal.

Metallic wall paper may be a heat-conserving device, it appears from tests made with metal foil.

Smallpox caused over one-eighth of the blindness in Europe before vaccination became general.

The life of a paint film depends not only on the composition of the paint, but also on the wood surface it covers.

Why certain animals sleep through the winter is not completely understood: lack of sugar in the blood is one possible explanation.

The Bixby collection of 10,000 nut trees, on Long Island, has been acquired by the Government and the trees are being transferred, chiefly to parks and experiment stations.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

Most articles are based on communications to Science Service or papers before meetings, but where published sources are used they are referred to in the articles.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

What was a "soul house"? p. 109.  
What was the archaeological "hoax" of Bishop Landa? p. 99.

## BIOCHEMISTRY

What is auxin? p. 99.

## BOTANY

What kind of trees did George Washington plant? p. 108.

## CHEMISTRY

How much does a rubber molecule weigh? p. 101.

What is the consumption of petroleum in the United States? p. 104.

Why has the magneto-optic method of chemical analysis been questioned? p. 103.

## CONSERVATION

How has the drought affected the wild ducks? p. 106.

## ENTOMOLOGY

Has winter killed the chinch bugs? p. 109.

## FORESTRY

Are fires in the forest always destructive? p. 108.

## GEOLOGY

Can flies build rocks? p. 104.  
What was the special field of Dr. David White's research? p. 101.

## HOME ECONOMICS

What will prevent sliced bananas from turning black? p. 104.

## ICHTHYOLOGY

To what land has the American crayfish traveled? p. 104.

## MEDICINE

How do scientists know the malaria germ of the Ceylon epidemic to be a new species? p. 102.

How does tobacco smoked by a pregnant woman affect the unborn child? p. 103.

What new cause has been found for hay fever? p. 105.

## METALLURGY

How pure has iron been made? p. 104.

What happens to the atoms during the hardening of alloys? p. 104.

What is the best "spiegel"? p. 105.

## PHYSICS

How did engineers produce a powerful flash for only one millionth of a second? p. 102.

## PHYSIOLOGY

How are the auditory limits of cats determined? p. 100.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Is meningitis likely to spread from transient camps? p. 100.