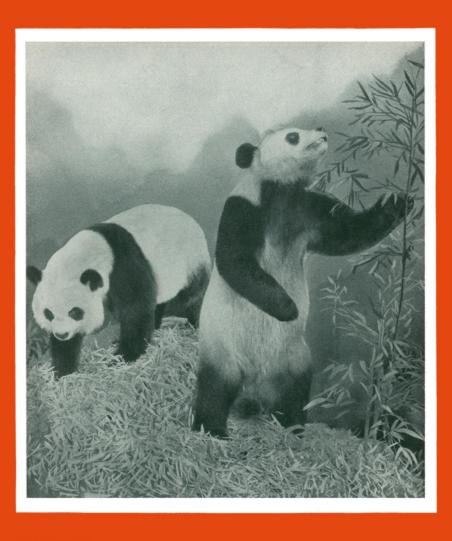
# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE .





FEBRUARY 29, 1936



Himalayan Harlequins
See Page 137

SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

#### VOL. XXIX No. 777 Summary of The Weekly

## Current Science

Published Every Saturday by

#### SCIENCE SERVICE

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE POPULAR-IZATION OF SCIENCE organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation, with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the E. W. Scripps Estate and the journalistic profession.

## Edited by Watson Davis

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.

Canadian subscribers please add 50 cents a year, foreign subscribers 75 cents a year to regular subscribers pton rate to cover postage.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have the privilege of subscribing to 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.A.S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one in notification to Circulation Department, Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C., at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

effective.

C., at least two weeks before change is to become effective.
Copyright, 1936, by Science Service, Inc. Republication of any portion of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Publication Office, 1930 Clifton Ave., Baltimore, Md., Editorial and Executive Offices, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C. Address all communications to Washington, D. C. Cable address: Scienserve, 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 trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Advertising rates furnished on application.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Board of Trustees of Science Service

#### Board of Trustees of Science Service

Board of Trustees of Science Service

Honorary President, William E. Ritter, University of California. Honorary Vice-President, Vernon Kellogg, National Research Council. 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.; Henry B. Ward, permanent secretary, A.A.A.S. Representing the National Academy of Sciences. W. H. Howell, Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; Harlow Shapley, Director, Harvard College Observatory. Cambridge, Mass. Representing National Research Council, Ludvig Hektoen, John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases, Chicago, Ill.; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe, Editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Washington, D. C. 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

Director, Watson Davis, Staff Writers: Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Robert Potter; Astronomy writer, James Stokley; London correspondent, Donald Caley. Correspondents in principal cities and cen-ters of research. Librarian, Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

# DO YOU KNOW?

Smyrna in Turkey is now officially

The seed stores of birds sometimes start new forests.

Probably no vegetable can be used in more ways than the onion.

Australia's funnel-web spider is scarcely bigger than a housefly, but its bite can kill.

By a new method, monograms may be welded to textiles, so that the initials will stand long wear and washing.

British chemists have produced a new range of dyes which they pronounce perfect for artificial silk made of acetates.

Trunkless fruit trees, resembling bushes, are found to yield more fruit and also to stand wind and winter damage better than trees with trunks.

Two women are superintendents of Indian agencies: Dr. Sophie Aberle, at the United Pueblos Agency, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Alida Bowler at the Carson Indian School and Agency, in Nevada.

Bread loses practically none of its vitamin B in the baking.

One of the transcontinental air lines has re-routed its planes so that they fly over the Grand Ĉanyon by daylight.

The crab-eating seal was one of the rare specimens collected by the second Byrd expedition to the Antarctic.

Naturalists report that albinos are more common among animals of the rodent order than among other kinds of mammals.

The first finger of a woman's hand is apt to be longer than the third finger, whereas a man's first finger is likely to be short.

The average amount of soil removed from clothes by the dry cleaning process is approximately 5 per cent. of the weight of the garment.

There are three things that children would rather do than listen to a radio, says one psychologist, and they are, in order: 1, go to the movies; 2, listen to an orchestra on the stage; 3, read the comics.

# 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 article.

What Bible queen may have married King Xerxes? p. 133.

Does the sun give us light at night? p. 132. What new heavenly object was discovered in Belgium recently? p. 136.

What star is 20 million miles across? p. 140. When will spring arrive? p. 138.

#### BIOLOGY

How do cells breathe? p. 131.

#### CHRONOLOGY

Will February 29 set our calendar right again? p. 134.

Is the pressure of ice in the soil the same at zero as at the freezing point? p. 141.

#### GENERAL SCIENCE

In what four fields should scientists look for future conquests? p. 136.

#### GENETICS

Where in the United States can you see one of Mendel's original pea plants? p. 135.

Can leprosy be cured or arrested? p. 141.

Is medical training at fault for the high maternal deathrate? p. 134.

Should novice physicians be placed "on trial"? p. 137.

What game bird can spread "rabbit fever"? p. 136.

## METEOROLOGY

What should be the range of thermometers in the "temperate" zone? p. 137.

## NATURAL HISTORY

Who began the development of cultivated fruits? p. 140.

#### PHYSICS

What discovery was made through the use of cosmic rays? p. 132.

### PHYSICS-BIOLOGY

Why is analysis more difficult in psychology than in physics? p. 133.

#### PHYSIOLOGY

How does pineal gland extract change the development of rats? p. 135.

#### RADIO-ASTRONOMY

Does the Milky Way send us radio messages? p. 131.

What are pandas like? p. 137.