# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE .





**SEPTEMBER 19, 1936** 



Great Cloud of Light

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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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## **Current Science**

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# DO YOU KNOW?

An African squash plant introduced into this country is found to be good as a table vegetable or in pies, and is resistant to the stem borer pest.

Chinese soldiers have been set to work diverting water from the Yellow River to arid land, making it useful for farming.

A summer camp for children in New York State is "pioneering" at Indianstyle living, with tipis for shelter, simple diet, and Indian philosophy toward nature.

The involuntary pattern of behavior in a startled person—shoulders drawn in, elbows bent, eyes blinking, and so on—can be caught by moving pictures speeded slightly above normal.

To prevent chromium plating on automobiles from showing rust spots when at the sea shore or when roads are cleared of snow by salt or other chemicals, it has been found that waxing the metal is helpful.

Scientific study to improve grass—one of the country's most important cropsis said to be no farther advanced than corn and other cereals were 30 years

Electric light cords should never be run under rugs or in door jambs, government electricians advise, because the cords will wear out quickly and may cause a short circuit.

The "rheumatism" that elderly folk used to complain of toward spring is now believed to have been mild scurvy due to lack of Vitamin C in the winter diet.

Rubber latex in a form easily applied and removed can be used to coat automobile bumpers, refrigerators, or other polished articles to protect them in ship-

Explorers crossing the heights of Greenland's ice cap report that one problem is getting enough drinking water, because the snow does not thaw naturally in some of these polar regions.

# 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.

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#### ASTRONOMY

Do some nebula shine by their own light? p. 191.

From what plant is the active principle of Oje obtained? p. 184.

How may gasoline be made from coal?

How thin can oil be spread on water? p. 184.

Is a protein molecule large? p. 187. Is the dentine of teeth affected by the blood circulation? p. 187.

What use is Germany trying to find for her industrial waste? p. 180.

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## Evolution

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#### GENETICS

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GEOLOGY

For how long have we had seasons? p. 188.

What would be the advantages of signs as an international language? p. 182.

#### MEDICINE

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#### Physics

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#### Physiology

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What is held responsible for diseases of the blood circulation? p. 181.

What is the function of antibodies? p. 187. What makes us breathe? p. 186.

#### PSYCHOLOGY-PHYSIOLOGY

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Is population research adequately financed? p. 182.