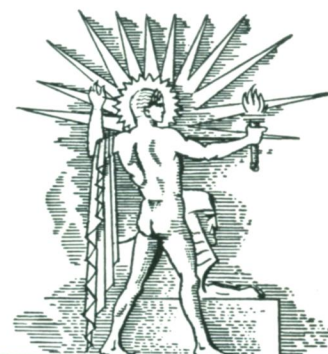


PRICE
15¢

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



SEPTEMBER 26, 1936

With Autumn Rains

See Page 200

A S C I E N C E S E R V I C E P U B L I C A T I O N

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. XXX



No. 807

The Weekly Summary of

Current Science

Published Every Saturday by

SCIENCE SERVICE

2101 Constitution Avenue

Washington, D. C.

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE POPULARIZATION 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

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 subscription 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.

Copyright, 1936, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction 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.

Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., 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

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; Warren S. Thompson, *Miami University*, Oxford, 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. Correspondents in principal cities and centers of research. *Librarian*, Minna Gill; *Sales and Advertising Manager*, Hallie Jenkins.

DO YOU KNOW?

The world's biggest bears were the cave bears that lived in European caves about 50,000 years ago.

Attempts to develop wheat and rye into perennial crops are being made in Russia.

Gothic architecture is traced to Persian origin by archaeologists exploring Persian ruins.

Improving fruit by the grafting method was hailed as a new science in the days of ancient Rome.

Great Britain's 12 most popular national monuments are proving to be six famous castles, five abbeys, and Stonehenge.

Death of trees injured by illuminating gas has been prevented experimentally by pruning off the injured parts of the roots.

The newest steam-electric locomotive lacks two of the familiar features of old steam locomotives—the side-rod drive and the water tower.

Harvested fruit keeps longer in storage or market if it is removed quickly from the sun and kept cool.

The Russo-Japanese War was the first war in which disease did not kill more men than battle wounds.

Zinnias are extremely susceptible to X-rays and die when exposed to dosages that are seldom lethal to other plants.

An ivory rod found in ruins of Lachish, Palestine, is believed to be a hair curler of the sort used 3,200 years ago.

The giant Sequoia tree of the West has a much smaller cone than many cone-bearing trees that do not reach nearly so large a size.

Durability of paint applied to wood depends considerably on the substances, such as rosin and oil, that are drawn out of the wood.

Cotton growers in Arizona are plagued by a growth disorder of the cotton plant called crazy-top, which seems partly due to times of water shortage.

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.

ANTHROPOLOGY

How long has man lived in England? p. 195.

ARCHAEOLOGY

How does a humped bull serve to link two ancient civilizations? p. 198.

ASTRONOMY

Are red stars the hottest kind? p. 197.
Can the distant planet Uranus be seen without a telescope? p. 203.
How hot is the new star discovered this year? p. 196.

BIOCHEMISTRY

Is cabbage rich in vitamin? p. 201.

ETHNOLOGY

Of what scientific interest is the diary of the artist Frank Mayer? p. 196.

ICHTHYOLOGY

Can fish be made to clean their own ponds? p. 201.

INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY

How do working associates affect the output? p. 205.

MEDICINE

What is the new attack on cancer suggested in Vienna? p. 198.

MEDICINE-PHYSIOLOGY

How can epileptic seizures be predicted? p. 200.

MYCOLOGY

Is the elm mushroom edible? p. 200.

PHARMACY

Will drug stores continue to carry "everything"? p. 200.

PHYSICS

Is ebony really black? p. 202.

PHYSIOLOGY

What diet factor is essential to the brain in chicks? p. 202.
What happens to the vitamin A stored in the body when pneumonia attacks? p. 200.
Will a mouthwash remove garlic odor from the breath? p. 202.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

Do scientists hope to synthesize chlorophyll? p. 197.

PSYCHOLOGY

Can machines show spontaneous variability? p. 207.
Is the Democratic party leaning to the left? p. 206.
Is war an inevitable product of human nature? p. 201.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Is trichinosis a common disease? p. 199.
What should you do if infantile paralysis attacks your community? p. 199.