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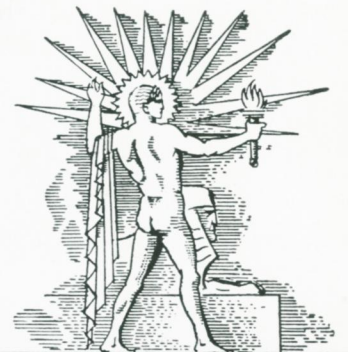
SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



Frost Filigree

See Page 344



NOVEMBER 28, 1936

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

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Summary of

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DO YOU KNOW?

Cast rubber articles are being made in England.

The secret ballot was used by some Indian tribes in their tribal decisions.

Two scientists recording the calls of rare birds have succeeded in recording the call of the trumpeter swan.

Introduction of the white men's guns into some native communities has turned fairly harmless and frequent combats into deadly battles.

Indian water jars made of clay are purposely left porous because the evaporation cools the water, but if converted into flower vases these jars should be waterproofed with hot paraffin, asphalt, or varnish.

Mysteriously enough, black bears in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park have been breaking up new painted wood signs in the park, though they never molested the old unpainted signs with carved letters: oil in the paint is thought to be responsible.

Few insects shed their shells after their wings appear.

Dogs do not often like fish, unless they learn to eat it when young.

A typical abdominal segment of a caterpillar contains at least 150 muscles.

Woodchucks are called whistle-pigs in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and Carolina.

Less than 30 per cent of rainfall in the United States comes from the ocean—all the rest is the result of evaporation from the land, and transpiration of plants.

A California scientist has shown that ripening fruit matures as much as two to three weeks earlier if nights are warm than it does if the nights are cool.

Tuberculosis, the great plague among Alaskan Indians, takes a death toll of 655 per 100,000 a year, in contrast with 56 per 100,000 among whites.

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.

ASTRONOMY

Can a telescope be kept trained on a star by mechanical means? p. 343.

Is the December eclipse to be important scientifically? p. 346.

BIOLOGY

May mathematics be used as a tool to explore living processes? p. 348.

What progress has been made in the study of chlorophyll? p. 343.

CHEMISTRY

In what way does the juice of the melon tree aid the cook? p. 345.

ENGINEERING

Should highway curves be banked? p. 344.

ETHNOLOGY

Why did the Navajos make mistakes in their weaving? p. 341.

EVOLUTION

How has a jawbone risen to dispute Darwin? p. 350.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Are animals susceptible to disease before they are born? p. 342.

MEDICINE

How does Prontosil help a patient to fight off streptococcus infection? p. 339.

How were prescriptions made in China? p. 344.

Is a spray successful against infantile paralysis? p. 340.

Is it likely that influenza may be caused by more than one agent? p. 345.

PALEONTOLOGY

Are brain casts of ancient animals rare? p. 345.

PHYSIOLOGY

Are the heart and the stomach equally efficient? p. 342.

Does the body contain a thermostat for controlling body temperature? p. 343.

What does the phrase "self-moving grappling bridge" describe? p. 343.

RADIO

Is television in color a possibility? p. 345.

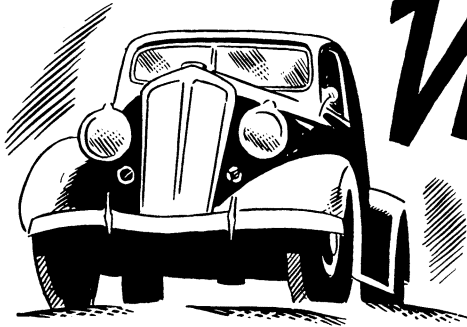
Will television soon be available in the average home? p. 348.

STANDARDS

How are scales for weighing truck loads tested? p. 341.

SURGERY

Can bleeders be operated upon safely? p. 340.



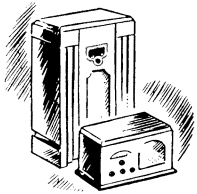
Which Brands are BEST BUYS?

1937 AUTOMOBILES

Everyone who is considering the purchase of a new car during the coming year should first read the technical appraisal of the new models by Consumers Union automotive consultants appearing in the current issue of *Consumers Union Reports*. It will be followed, in an early issue, by ratings of the different makes as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable."

1937 RADIOS

"Tone quality only fair . . . Hum level high . . . Dial calibration spotty . . . Tuning eye insensitive and useless . . . Obviously this receiver had never been adequately inspected . . ." This excerpt—from the report on 1937 radios also in the current issue—refers to one of the ten models listed as "Not Acceptable." Over thirty models (including Philco, Emerson, RCA, Midwest, etc.) are rated—many as "Best Buys" or "Also Acceptable."



CHILDREN'S SHOES

A report on children's shoes in this issue tells which brands wear best and gives medical experts' advice on fitting the child's feet; how much to allow for growth, etc. Twelve brands, including Thom McAn, Edwards, Pediforme, and Endicott Johnson, are rated—two of them as "Best Buys."



The current issue of the *Reports* also rates leading brands of electric toasters and baking powders; and gives you money-saving information on other products, too.

LEADING REPORTS IN PAST ISSUES

Here are a few of the leading reports in past issues of *Consumers Union Reports* (complete editions). You may begin your membership with any of these issues—simply write the month desired in the coupon. For an additional 50c a binder especially made for the *Reports* will be sent to you.

MAY—toilet soaps, grade A versus grade B milk, breakfast cereals.
JULY—refrigerators, used cars, motor oils, bathing suits.
SEPT.—shoes, tires, whiskies, women's coats, rubbers.

JUNE—automobiles, gasolines, moth preventives, vegetable seeds.
AUG.—oil burners and stokers, hosiery, white breads, laundry soaps
OCT.—shirts, gins, brandies, cordials, electric razors, dentifrices.

A NATION-WIDE CONSUMER ORGANIZATION GIVES YOU THE ANSWERS

EIGHTEEN THOUSAND consumers have discovered a new way to save money. They have joined Consumers Union of United States—a nation-wide, non-profit organization set up to provide accurate, *unbiased*, technical information about products in everyday use. Consumers Union's technical staff, aided by impartial consultants, tests hundreds of articles—gasolines, shoes, cosmetics, foods—practically everything used in and around the home.

The results of these tests are published each month in *Consumers Union Reports*—with ratings of products, *by brand name*, as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable." By following these recommendations you can avoid mistakes *before* you buy instead of regretting them afterward.

A year's membership in Consumers Union costs but \$3 (\$1 for the limited edition) and entitles you to twelve issues of *Consumers Union Reports* plus a **YEARLY BUYING GUIDE** now in preparation. (Note:—The limited \$1 edition of the *Reports* covers only the less expensive types of products.)

CONSUMERS UNION OF U.S.

A strictly non-profit organization, Consumers Union has absolutely no connection with any commercial interest. Its income is derived solely from its members. Its president is Professor Colston E. Warne, of Amherst; its director, Arthur Kallet, co-author of *100,000,000 Guinea Pigs*; its technical supervisor, D. H. Palmer. On its board of directors and among its sponsors are many prominent scientists, educators and journalists.

You are invited to become a member of this organization. The coupon below will bring you the current *Reports* at once—or, if you wish, you may begin with any of the earlier issues listed at the left. Simply write the month desired on the coupon and mail it in today.

AN UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

If you are looking for a Christmas gift of lasting value for your husband, wife, parents, or friends, give them a year's membership in Consumers Union. Simply send us their names and addresses—with a \$3 remittance for each membership—and your own name and address. We will start the gift with the December issue—timed to arrive just before Christmas—or, for 50c extra to cover the cost of a binder (\$3.50 in all), a complete set of *Consumers Union Reports* dating from our first issue (May, 1936) will be sent, to be followed by subsequent issues through next April. An appropriate card with your name as the donor will be enclosed.

MAIL THIS APPLICATION

To: CONSUMERS UNION OF U. S., Inc., 55 Vandam Street, New York, N. Y.

I hereby apply for membership in Consumers Union. I enclose:

- \$3 for one year's membership, \$2.50 of which is for a year's subscription to the complete edition of *Consumers Union Reports*. Subscriptions without membership are \$3.50.
- \$1 for one year's membership, 50c of which is for a year's subscription to the limited edition of *Consumers Union Reports*. (Note:—the reports on automobiles and higher-priced radios are not in this edition.)
- I also enclose (\$2 to \$25) as a contribution toward a permanent consumers' laboratory.

I agree to keep confidential all material sent to me which is so designated.

Please begin my membership with the issue.

Signature Occupation

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