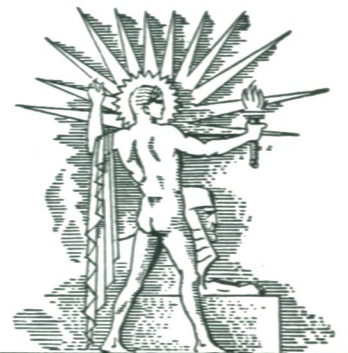


PRICE
15¢

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



JANUARY 16, 1937

Plow at Work

See Page 42

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. XXXI

No. 823

The Weekly  Summary of

Current Science

Published Every Saturday by
SCIENCE SERVICE
 2101 Connecticut 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, 1937, 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.; 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 ?

Tomatoes absorb odors more easily than any other fruit.

A huge synthetic rubber industry is part of Germany's new "four year plan."

In old Japan it was an offense punished by death to cut down wrongfully any one of seven famous tree species.

Glare caused by light reflected from a light-colored, glossy wall may fade some textiles, experiments indicate.

An Egyptian sarcophagus of rose granite weighing three tons is to be brought to the Brooklyn Museum from Egypt.

Compressed coal in neat 10 or 15 pound packages is now delivered by white-coated drivers in white enameled trucks.

All of the available water of western United States is not enough to provide adequate supplies for more than about three out of each 100 acres in the West.

Germany expects to be less dependent on foreign countries for leather tanning materials, now that a new chemical process has been evolved, using a synthetic agent.

Important events in Java are celebrated by theatrical performances.

The western mocking bird is reported thriving and spreading through California.

The earliest inscribed epitaphs known are those the ancient Egyptians placed on sarcophagi and coffins.

A method of X-raying oranges rapidly, in order to pick out imperfect fruit, is being tried in California.

The census of the Soviet Union, already begun, is expected to show almost 180 million people under Soviet rule.

About 300 A.D., Antioch in Syria had a system of public street lighting, consisting of lanterns suspended on ropes.

A Hungarian scientist is reported to have prepared a fertilizing dye which makes plants highly sensitive to sunlight, so that they grow faster and attain giant size.

Fear that thallium compounds used in killing rats and other rodents may injure plant growth is discounted by government scientists who have made both field and laboratory investigations.

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.

AERONAUTICS

By what means are scientists studying the strains of bumpy flight? p. 39.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Did ancient Egypt have loan sharks? p. 40.

From what people do we inherit our alphabet? p. 38.

BOTANY

Can an oil like sperm oil be obtained from a plant? p. 39.

CHEMISTRY

Can "cotton" yarn be made in the laboratory? p. 40.

ENGINEERING

Can television serve as a range finder? p. 41.

Where does the snow drift 80 feet deep? p. 42.

ENTOMOLOGY

What troublesome insect hibernates in caves? p. 39.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Who is the new permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science? p. 35.

GEOLOGY

Can sea-weed build rocks? p. 45.

MEDICINE

Do healthy body tissues check growth of cancer? p. 37.

Is a chemical cure for cancer a possibility? p. 35.

What is the connection between vitamin A and protection against poisons? p. 38.

PHYSICS

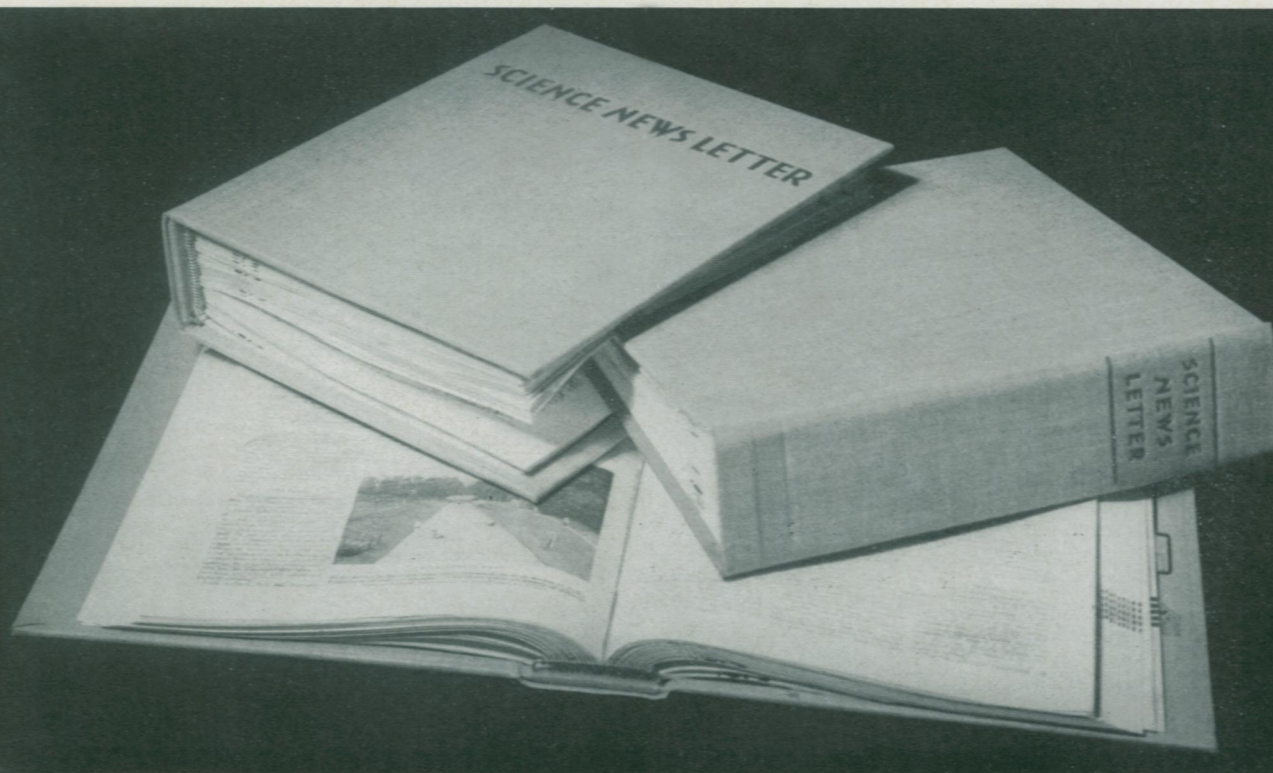
What radio station is licensed to broadcast on all frequencies? p. 36.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Is the present flu epidemic severe? p. 41.

SEISMOLOGY

Where was the "lost" earthquake? p. 40.



Safe . . . Secure . . . Sound . . .

Here is the perfect binder for SCIENCE NEWS LETTER . . . a binder that will keep your favorite magazine of scientific record neat, complete and readable through long, hard use. No more lost copies, no more dog-eared and torn copies, no more copies out of place.

We believe this to be the best binder obtainable at such low cost. It looks like a book and it is a book in every respect save that you snap new issues into the cover with a little unbreakable hooked wire. You may remove them instantly and reinsert them easily whenever you desire. The cover is of handsome, basket-weave buff buckram with SCIENCE NEWS LETTER stamped in gold on the front and spine. It holds 26 copies, opens freely and allows the pages to lie flat as shown in the photograph. It is durable and will last for years.

The cost, including postage, is \$1.25. We are so sure that you will like the binder that we offer to return your money if you are not satisfied.

Features:

Light weight

Durable

Flat when opened

Easy to insert or remove each copy—takes only a moment!

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Enclosed is \$1.25 for one of the new SCIENCE NEWS LETTER binders. It is understood, of course, that you will refund my money if the binder proves unsatisfactory.

Name

Street address

City and State