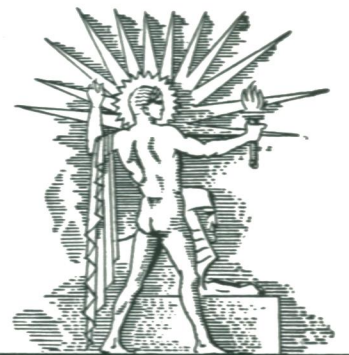
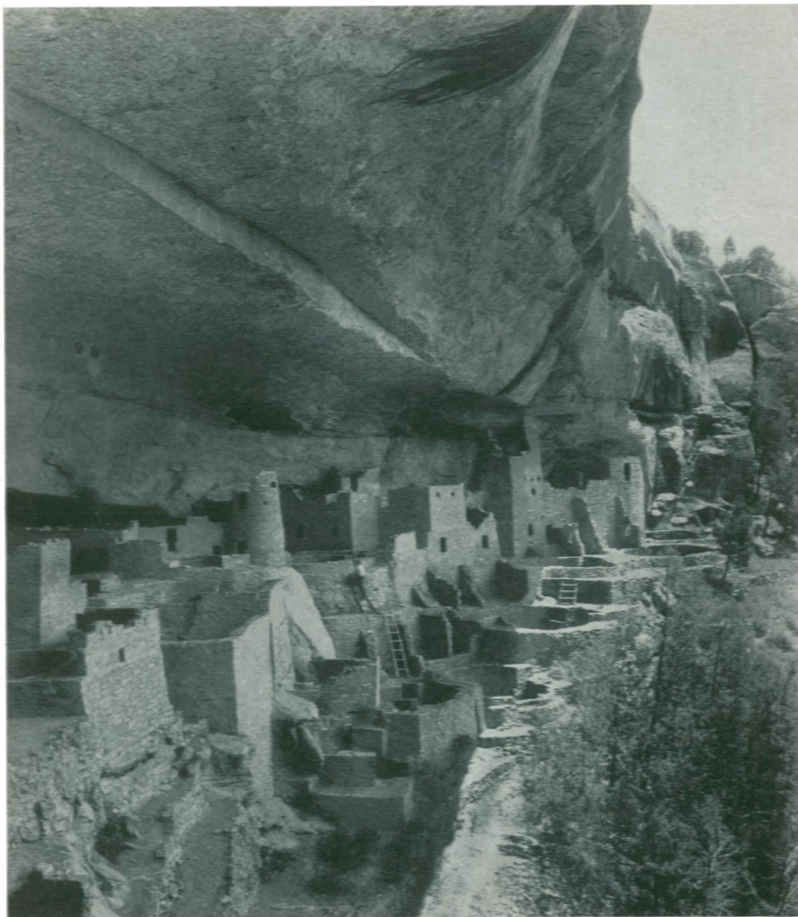


PRICE  
15¢

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



JANUARY 23, 1937

Self-Poisoned?

See Page 58

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. 824

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, 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 ?

The cashew nut is a native of America, found notably in Brazil.

There are about 3,000 miles of streets in Greater New York.

A cotton drier devised in 1930 by government scientists is gaining wide use in the South.

Practically every State in the Union has recorded earthquakes within the past 160 years.

The old Roman version of "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" was that eating cabbage would help ward off sickness.

By aid of an electric stethoscope, heartbeats of people before and after exercising were broadcast recently by the radio.

Attempts to grow the Cedar of Lebanon in New England failed when botanists brought seedlings from Palestine; but when some were brought from a colder region, north of Palestine, the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University succeeded in growing these famous trees and some now stand almost 40 feet high.

Columbus brought the first cows to America, in 1493.

The International Committee for Bird Preservation has extended its study of migratory birds to 26 countries.

The secret societies of American Indians are pronounced strikingly similar to college fraternities and lodges.

By a freezing process, raw, greasy wool can be rid of much grease, as well as vegetable matter such as burrs.

Some of the newest schoolhouses have large sections of wall made of glass blocks, for light and for advantages of insulation.

Telephone booths can now be constructed so that one side remains open and yet noises outside do not disturb the phone user.

The big new hospital to be built at Melbourne, Australia, will have the inside walls and partitions movable, so that wards and rooms can be adjusted.

Sparrows are the Joneses or the Smiths of the bird world—one-seventh of the birds in North America are members of sparrow families.

## 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.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

How can adobe bricks serve as clues to early Americans' history? p. 57.

Who built America's first slums? p. 58.

### ASTRONOMY

What new use has the Geiger-Mueller counter? p. 56.

### ELECTROCHEMISTRY

How many pinholes per square foot occur in ordinary tin plate? p. 51.

### ENGINEERING

How many miles of railroad track extend over the United States? p. 55.

### FORESTRY

Is fire recommended for white pine timberland? p. 56.

### MEDICINE

Who stands greatest risk in an automobile accident? p. 60.

### PALEONTOLOGY

How long ago did the passenger pigeon fly? p. 56.

### PHYSICS

Are heavenly bodies rushing away from the center of the universe? p. 51.

Can relativity and the quantum theory be reconciled? p. 53.

Do ghosts haunt the physical laboratory? p. 61.

How are patients protected from injury by Columbia's new X-ray machine? p. 53.

What is a Violen? p. 56.

What is the value of gravity? p. 52.

What unusual property is possessed by Hackmanite? p. 54.

### POPULATION

How many moved from the drought stricken plains during 1936? p. 54.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Can a small amount of carbon monoxide gas make people sick? p. 52.

Is a lollipop ever a deadly weapon? p. 57.

Is the influenza epidemic becoming more severe? p. 60.

What should you do during an influenza epidemic? p. 60.

### RADIO

Where are four-inch radio waves being studied? p. 56.