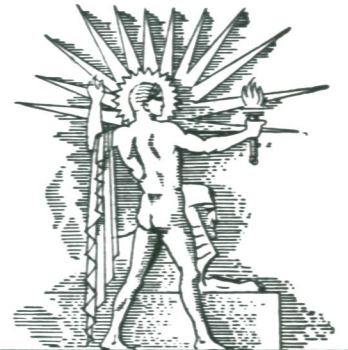


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



FEBRUARY 6, 1937

"The Waters Prevailed"

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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

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The Weekly Summary of



## Current Science

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## DO YOU KNOW?

Teeth erupt in different order in apes and in man, it is reported.

Soybean meal improves the color of bread when used in suitable proportions, by decolorizing the carotene in flour.

A study on the effects of smoky atmosphere on ultraviolet light shows that the amount of ultraviolet in the country may be 50 per cent more than in the city.

The so-called sea serpents that mystify observers when seen in waters off Southern California are probably common king-herrings, which are ribbon-like fish sometimes 30 feet long.

Tuberculosis in cattle has been reduced to less than half of one per cent in 43 states, and there is hope that the disease will be conquered in American cattle.

Efforts to find a process for removing lampblack inks from the paper in old newspapers and magazines proving unsuccessful in Germany, chemists have tried instead to compound an ink that bleaches easily and they now report success.

In Navajo Indian language a turtle is "that which is tired," a mule is "long ears," sugar is "sweet salt," and coal is "the rock that burns."

The world's largest apartment house development—a group of 1,200 flats—is reported under construction in London, overlooking the Thames.

Fresh fruits from the United States, such as grapes, apples, and pears, are being carried to interior points in Colombia by air express.

Washing automobiles in lakes and streams is causing so much protest from those who use the water for bathing or household purposes that some communities forbid it.

Crops grown on Arctic Soviet farms include turnips, carrots, beets, cabbage, wheat; and in hothouses the Arctic farms grow lettuce, onions, and tomatoes.

A naturalist reports that the many dead fish found in a stream after a nearby forest fire, were apparently killed by the ash which fell in the water and formed a toxic solution, and not by the heat from the fire.

## 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

What did Peking Man look like? p. 89.

## ASTRONOMY

Can a telescope be built of stars? p. 87.

## CLIMATOLOGY

How long did the Flood of 1543 last? p. 86.

Is there any sure prevention for floods? p. 94.

## CLIMATOLOGY-POPULATION

Should man fight floods? p. 83.

## ECOLOGY

Why must we reorganize our landscape? p. 84.

## ENGINEERING

How soon will home air-conditioning be taken out of the luxury category? p. 89.

What is a draft? p. 93.

## ENTOMOLOGY

Is it all right to keep black widows on the premises? p. 88.

## METEOROLOGY

What started the flood? p. 83.

Can floods be forecast more accurately? p. 85.

## ORNITHOLOGY

What is a safe shape for an egg? p. 89.

What did passenger pigeons eat? p. 94.

## PHYSIOLOGY-PSYCHOLOGY

Is poor eyesight always a bad thing for an artist? p. 90.

## PLANT PATHOLOGY

What is a possible use for maleic acid? p. 88.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

How much iodine is needed to make water safe? p. 85.

What organism is most dangerous to man? p. 85.

## SOIL CONSERVATION

What was the flood cost in soil losses? p. 84.

## TECHNOLOGY

How does bent light help measure paper smoothness? p. 88.



# WHICH OF 10 FAMOUS MAKES OF MEN'S SUITS are *Best Buys?*

**A**LMOST ALL ready-made clothing looks all right—when you buy it—but the man who is interested in saving money has to know more about a suit of clothes than what is apparent at the time of purchase. Textile experts working under the direction of Consumers Union took apart representative suits made by 10 nationally known manufacturers; tested the fabrics and linings; examined the workmanship in minute detail, and analyzed the other factors that mean long wear and satisfactory service. The results are published in the current issue of *Consumers Union Reports*, the monthly publication of a non-profit, nation-wide organization of consumers interested in getting the most for their money. This report on suits will tell you how much you should pay and what you should look for when you are buying a ready-made suit of clothes. It rates the different brands, *by name*, as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable." Another report in the same issue tells you which of 16 leading brands of men's hose tested are most likely to wear longest.

## How CONSUMERS UNION REPORTS *save you money*

*Consumers Union Reports*—telling you which brands of shoes tested will wear longest, which tires will give the most mileage per dollar, which automobiles and radios are the "best buys," and which brands of other products are the best values—can save you money and help you to buy intelligently. These *Reports*—rating products *by name* as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable"—are published by Consumers Union of United States, a nation-wide organization of consumers whose chief purpose is to make accurate information about products—based on research by competent and unbiased technicians—available to its members at the lowest possible cost. Information on the labor conditions under which many products are made is also given in the *Reports*. Incorporated under the laws of New York State as a strictly non-profit organization, Consumers Union is sponsored by many prominent scientists, educators, journalists, labor and progressive leaders. Professor Colston E. Warne, of Amherst, is president of Consumers Union, Arthur Kallet, co-author of *100,000,000 Guinea Pigs*, is director and D. H. Palmer, physicist, is technical supervisor. The membership of

Consumers Union has grown in less than a year to more than 25,000—and is increasing, at the present time, at the rate of nearly 1,000 new members a week.

If you, too, want to make sure that you are getting the most for your money fill out and mail the membership application blank below—checking the month with which you wish your membership to begin. Principal subjects covered in past issues are given in the box at the right. The fee—which entitles you to a YEARLY BUYING GUIDE now in preparation as well as to a year's subscription to the *Reports*—is only \$3 a year—(\$1 a year for the abridged edition covering only the less expensive types of products). The *Reports*, beginning from the month checked will immediately be sent to you.

### PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS IN PAST ISSUES OF CONSUMERS UNION REPORTS

- MAY—Toilet Soaps, Grade A versus Grade B Milk, Breakfast Cereals
- JUNE—Automobiles, Gasolines, Moth Preventives, Vegetable Seeds
- JULY—Refrigerators, Bathing Suits, Used Cars, Motor Oils
- AUG.—Oil Burners and Stokers, Black List of Drugs and Cosmetics, White Bread, Meat, Hosiery
- SEPT.—Tires, Whiskies, Women's Coats, Shoes
- OCT.—Men's Shirts, Gins, Electric Razors, Dentifrices, Anti-freeze
- NOV.—1937 Autos, Radios, Toasters, Wines, Children's Shoes, Winter Oils
- DEC.—Vacuum Cleaners, Fountain Pens, Electric Irons, Nose Drops
- JAN.—Men's Suits, Children's Underwear, Cold Remedies, Shaving Creams

### Also in the Current Issue of CONSUMERS UNION REPORTS

#### COLD REMEDIES

Hundreds of proprietary articles—ranging from gargles, cough drops, inhalants and ointments to pills, powders, syrups and "scientifically" formulated internal medicines—are being offered today as "remedies" or "cures" for colds. Which, if any, will do what is claimed for them? Are any of them capable of causing serious harm? These questions are answered in the current issue with names of specific products.



#### CHILDREN'S SLEEPING- AND UNDER-GARMENTS

Tested and examined by Consumers Union experts. 12 leading brands of children's cotton underwear are rated in the current issue as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable." This report gives the opinions of child specialists on the comparative merits of cotton versus wool underwear, and describes the features which are desirable in children's undergarments. Leading brands of children's sleeping garments are also rated.



#### SHAVING CREAMS

Over 30 different brands of shaving creams (both the brush and brushless types) and shaving soaps were tested for Consumers Union members. Some of these brands will meet your shaving requirements for a year for as little as 15c—others will cost you ten to twenty times as much. If you want to economize on your shaving bill read this report.



Also discussed in the January Reports are MAPLE SYRUPS, HAND LOTIONS and other products, all rated by name.

## 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*.
  - \$1 for one year's membership, 50c of which is for a year's subscription to the limited edition of *Consumers Union Reports*. (Note—Reports on higher-priced products are not in this edition.)

I agree to keep confidential all material sent to me which is so designated.  
Please begin my membership with the ..... issue.

Signature .....  
Address .....  
City and State ..... Occupation ..... LF