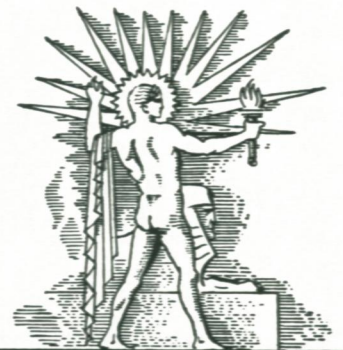


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



May 29, 1937

First Miss America?

See Page 345

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. XXXI



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## DO YOU KNOW?

A frog can easily jump 20 times its length.

Egyptians pioneered in the construction of paved roads.

In many butterflies the first pair of legs are so short they are not used in walking.

In one of India's famous gold fields, 13,000 workers are employed underground daily.

Beaver dams were important and helpful in controlling erosion in this country, before man's arrival.

One fortress built by Crusaders in the twelfth century in Syria is so large that, within recent years, a village of about 500 people lived in it.

Although much older writings are known, only one clay tablet from Babylonia has been found that was written between 1800 and 1500 B.C.

The groundhog—or whistle pig—uses up about a third of its fat during the winter's sleep, needing the rest of its fat to "go on" when it comes out of hibernation, until nature provides its normal diet of growing things.

Bony amber may be as white as ivory.

Radio-equipped tractors have been placed on the market.

Many ancient Chinese jade objects are made of kinds of jade no longer obtainable.

In eighteenth century hospitals, mush and molasses were the staple foods for the sick.

Silver Spring, one of Florida's largest springs, yields enough water to supply a large city.

The Sierra Nevada "range" in California, according to most geologists, is one great mountain about 400 miles long and 50 miles wide.

Because there are 29 ways of spelling a name like Snyder, the Social Security Board has adopted a simple phonetic filing system to keep track of its records of 27 million persons.

Golden plovers, that fly over 2,500 miles from Labrador and Newfoundland to the tropics every year, are very fat birds when they leave the north, but the great effort of their flight leaves them thin when they arrive in the south.

## 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

Who was the Minnesota Girl? p. 345.

## ASTRONOMY

Is the Schmidt type of camera for use at the eclipse faster than the best candid cameras? p. 340.

On what do astronomers base hope for better eclipse pictures during the June eclipse? p. 340.

What is the longest possible time for an eclipse of the sun? p. 341.

When will the eclipse be "on the air"? p. 343.

## AVIATION

Does the United States lead in aviation research? p. 340.

How can model airplanes be controlled in test flights? p. 339.

## BIOLOGY-PSYCHOLOGY

Do identical twins always remain alike? p. 350.

## CHEMISTRY

What is catalase? p. 345.

## ENGINEERING

How can flooded mines be freed from water? p. 343.

## GEOPHYSICS

For what will the S. S. Research be used? p. 344.

## ORNITHOLOGY

Which is America's largest bird? p. 344.

## PHYSICS

Can the neutron be split? p. 348.

Who discovered the new unnamed particle? p. 349.

## PHYSIOLOGY

What chemical causes perspiration on a frightened person? p. 348.

Where do plants store their fat? p. 350.

## PSYCHIATRY

How does insulin act when used for treating the mentally ill? p. 347.

## PSYCHOLOGY

Why should convalescent children be gotten out of bed as soon as it is wise? p. 346.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Is refrigeration gas a hazard? p. 345.

Is there a great deal of danger from rabies in the United States? p. 344.

Where is tuberculosis most prevalent? p. 344.

# WHICH MAKES OF TRAILERS AND WASHING MACHINES

# ARE *Best Buys?*

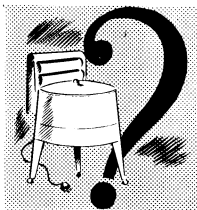
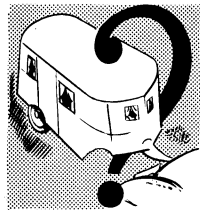
**Avoid Mistakes Before You Buy**  
 Technical Experts Now Give You the Names of Good Products and of Poor Ones . . . and Help You to Save Substantial Sums on Your Purchases

## The Answers

to this and similar questions are given in reports and articles in the current issue of *Consumers Union Reports*, the monthly publication which goes to members of Consumers Union of United States and which rates products, by brand name, as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable."

In addition to reports on trailers, washing machines and moth preventives, and the article on constipation, this issue also contains ratings of garden insecticides, and other products. The article on constipation in this issue is the first of a series on this subject. Prepared by a physician, these articles define the nature and causes of this ailment and the methods of treatment for it. The merits and demerits of widely-advertised laxatives will be discussed in detail.

What makes of trailers show the best engineering construction? Which are rated as "Best Buys" on basis of quality and price? What effect does towing a trailer have on the durability of the towing car? On the gasoline mileage? On the driving habits of the driver? What are the advantages and disadvantages of trailers in terms of living comfort? What legal restrictions do some states impose on the use of trailers?



What three models of washing machines, out of ten models tested by engineers, were rated as "Best Buys"? What three models as "Not Acceptable"? Which model had the greatest washing effectiveness? Which one was dropped out of a durability test after three gears had failed?

What is the nature and what are the causes of constipation? What are the best means of avoiding and treating it? Which laxatives are effective and which are not? Which may be taken safely . . . and which may not?



What are the best methods and materials to use in protecting your clothes from moths? Will any of the advertised moth preventives really protect your clothes? What product advertised as a moth preventive was described as " . . . worthless for the control of moths" by the U. S. Food & Drug Administration?

## Consumers Union Reports

is not just a magazine, nor is Consumers Union a commercial organization. Established on a strictly non-profit, membership basis, Consumers Union is set up to provide nearly 40,000 members with accurate, technical information on the things they buy. Each month, in the 32-page *Consumers Union Reports*, members of Consumers Union receive unbiased, usable information to guide them in their daily buying—information based on laboratory analyses, technical tests, and actual trials of the products reported upon, with ratings, in terms of brand names, as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable." Information is also given on the labor conditions under which many products are made. Properly used, the information contained in *Consumers Union Reports* can save the average family \$100 or more in the course of a year.

The coupon below is your invitation to become a member of this unique and rapidly growing organization. The membership fee is \$3.00 a year (\$1 for an abridged edition covering only the less expensive products). It brings you (1) 12 issues of *Consumers Union Reports*; (2) a 240-page yearly Buying Guide (the 1937 edition of which has just been distributed to members), and (3) a vote in the control of the organization. Mail this coupon today. Your membership can begin with any of the issues listed at the right.

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  - ( ) NOV.—Radios, Toasters, Wines, Winter Oils, Children's Shoes
  - ( ) DEC.—Vacuum Cleaners, Fountain Pens, Electric Irons, Blankets, Nose Drops
  - ( ) JAN.-FEB.—Men's Suits, Cold Remedies, Shaving Creams, Children's Undergarments
  - ( ) MAR.—1937 Autos, Face Powders, Sheets, Flour, Canned Foods
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| apt to be good buys | Gasolines           | Shaving Soaps and  |
| Blankets—Wool       | Hair Dyes           | Creams             |
| Bread               | Hosiery             | Electric Toasters  |
| Canned Fruits and   | Children's Clothing | Tooth Pastes and   |
| Vegetables          | Men's Suits, Shirts | Powders            |
| Cereals             | and Socks           | Tires              |
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