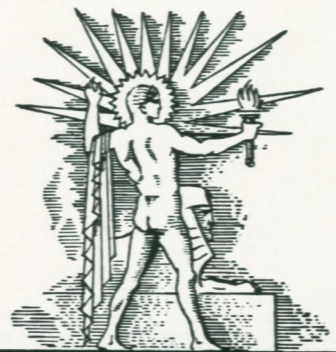
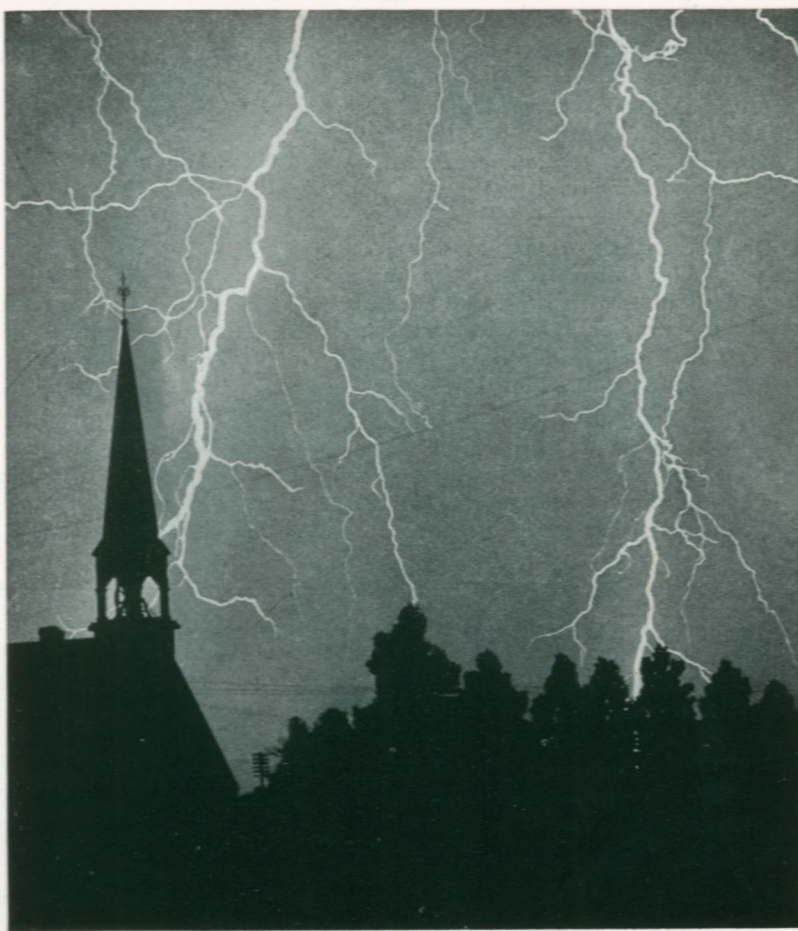


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THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



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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

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DO YOU KNOW?

The River Nile is about 4,000 miles long from source to mouth.

Cottonseed oil is being used as fuel for combustion engines in the Congo.

Diesel engines for mine locomotives have been successfully used in Europe.

A survey of air pollution by smoke, pollen, and other materials is being made in New York City.

Optical lenses made of a clear plastic material are said to be unbreakable, scratch-proof, and quickly and cheaply produced.

The old-fashioned cooking rule that biscuit dough should be handled lightly to make tender biscuit is confirmed by recent laboratory tests.

A rattlesnake's age is not shown by the number of its rattles: the snake grows from two to four rattles on his tail in a year, and old ones sometimes break off.

It is reported that helium deposits have been found in various parts of the Soviet Union, and that a helium plant is to be started soon, to provide this valuable gas for Russian dirigibles.

In North Dakota, fires each year destroy over one-fifth of the value of farm buildings and equipment.

Finding soap gnawed by rats suggests to a government biologist that this apparent fondness for soap is the only clean characteristic a rat has.

Birds shed their feathers in the same way that animals shed hair, for both feathers and hair are specialized horny growths of the outer skin.

Papago Indians of Arizona are to keep their privilege of harvesting cactus fruit on land now included in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Morning-glory, or bindweed, has roots as long as 30 feet, so that the unwanted plant lives persistently through drought conditions that kill valuable crops.

Cattle that graze continuously on the Great Plains in summer need at least seven acres of pasture per head, to feed them without injuring the vegetation.

A curious symptom of a rare nervous disease consists of a spasmodic hand gesture which is called medically by a German word meaning "fly swatting."

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.

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Do humans have a mating time too? p. 393.

GEOLOGY

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Why will a bilious look be as popular as a coat of tan among some arthritis patients? p. 387.

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Is it possible that the lake behind Boulder Dam might cause earthquakes? p. 396.

ZOOLOGY

Do gibbons recognize their own voices on phonograph records? p. 397.