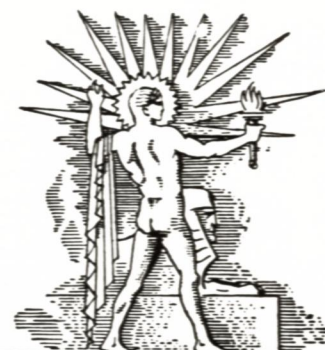


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



September 18, 1937

Advance Friend!

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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 date is the most important crop in Iraq.

Salamanders, frogs, and toads will dry up and die unless their skins can keep moist.

Nicotine content of cigarets has little effect on their apparent strength to the smoker.

Cow's milk should not be used for babies more than 36 hours after it is pasteurized.

Two cut-leaf Japanese maples, planted by Mrs. Grover Cleveland in President Cleveland's administration, are growing in the grounds of the White House in Washington.

The Chinese soldier's umbrella used to be a joke; now it is used as clever camouflage by painting it to match landscape.

A new automatic dust and smoke meter is said to be capable of producing countable records for an exceptional range of dust concentrations.

Synthetic rubies and sapphires can be distinguished from natural gems by difference in the interior construction of the stone, made visible under a microscope.

The entire island of Capri is a bird sanctuary.

A baby's teeth begin to develop at least six months before birth.

The owl gets its name from the Cockney mispronunciation of howl.

Plague, carried by certain fleas, exists in three forms: bubonic, pneumonic, and septicemic.

Automobile license plates are clearer to read if dark letters are used on light ground, than if light letters are used on dark ground.

A popular exhibit at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia is equipment enabling visitors to hear themselves as they sound over the telephone.

According to a French theory, certain medicines such as sedatives might be made synthetically in the chemical laboratory in gas form, so that the medicine could be taken by breathing it.

An hour of complete quiet in the home after dinner—with no music, conversation, or laughter—will not only help school children master their homework, but will prove restful to the adults, advises the medical director of one insurance company.

## 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.

## ASTRONOMY

Can the waxing and waning of the giant variable stars be predicted? p. 191.

Is the sun very bright among the stars? p. 190.

Will Encke's comet be visible to the unaided eye? p. 184.

## AVIATION—HISTORY

How is Columbus to be honored on the 450th anniversary of America's discovery? p. 183.

## CHEMISTRY

How are women chemists being honored? p. 179.

## CHEMISTRY—MEDICINE

How is the brain linked with prevention of blood clotting? p. 179.

## ENGINEERING

Are prefabricated houses being built at lower prices than the conventional type? p. 184.

What is a vodas? p. 189.

## ENTOMOLOGY

Are all insects to be dreaded? p. 186.

What happens when fireflies have competition from firecrackers? p. 184.

## ETHNOLOGY

Do cannibals exist? p. 184.

## HORTICULTURE

Who has taken the flannel off the peach? p. 181.

## HYGIENE

What should you do about that tired feeling? p. 185.

## MEDICINE

Can hospitals obtain "iron lungs" if they are urgently needed? p. 180.

Is a nasal spray recommended as a preventive of infantile paralysis? p. 180.

Why is it proposed that a non-profit corporation hold medical patents? p. 188.

## POPULATION

How do population statistics reflect the happenings of the World War? p. 185.

## PSYCHOLOGY

How old should you be to have the best chance of making sporting records? p. 181.

Is the Fascist movement gaining ground in the United States? p. 182.