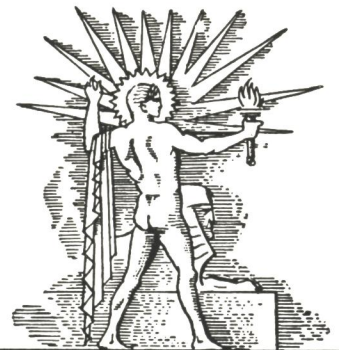
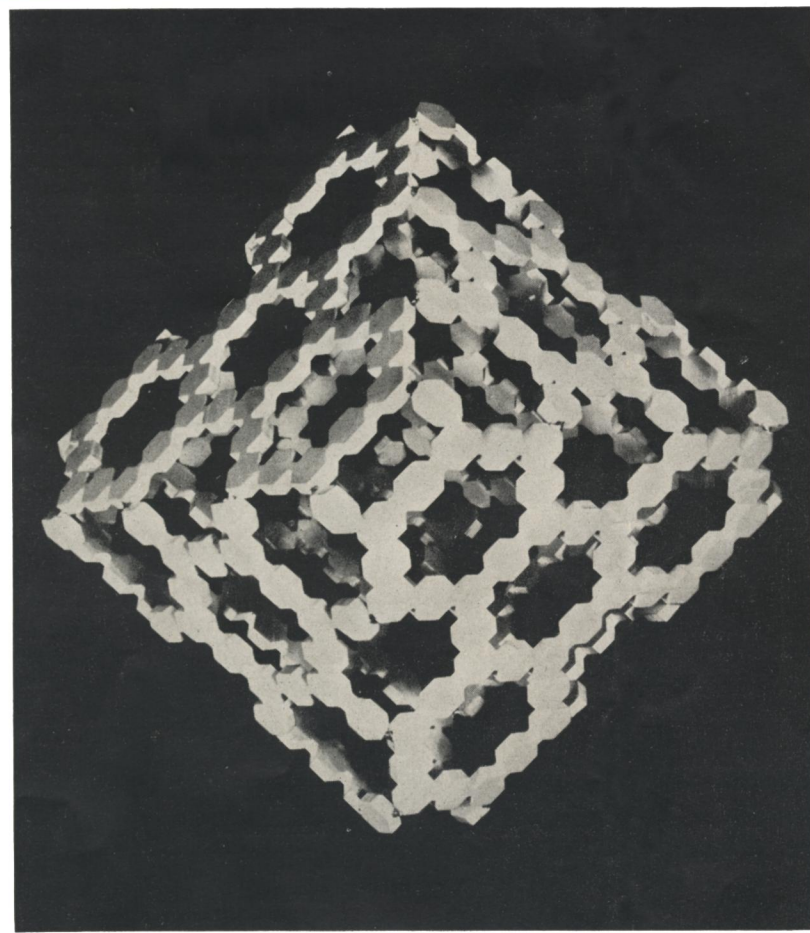


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



September 25, 1937

Life Saver

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## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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## DO YOU KNOW?

Pipe organs in Roman days were operated by water power.

Columbia University has 42,000 volumes on China and Japan in its library.

The majority of desert animals are sandy colored, matching the dry vegetation and bare ground.

As long ago as 430 B.C., a Greek physician observed the injurious effects of dust on the lungs of workmen.

An entire mining town—machinery, food, people—was recently moved from one Canadian point to another by airplane.

For the first time, the famous scene of Prometheus bringing down fire from heaven has been clearly identified on an ancient Greek vase.

Good roads are helping America's crowded cities to "decentralize," by carrying a suburban band five to ten miles wide to develop.

The Costa Rican government has ordered that a first aid kit containing specified articles be kept in every factory, school, hotel, and certain other institutions in the country.

About half of Russia's vodka is now used in making synthetic rubber.

Weaver birds are as common in Africa as sparrows and finches in America.

Sowing rice from an airplane was tried this year in California's Imperial Valley.

Even the activity in an anthill is used by German teachers to illustrate German principles of politics and sociology.

As part of the health routine in the Japanese army, troops line up and each man massages the shoulders of the man in front of him.

An oceanographer advances the theory that the water at some California beaches is cold because prevailing winds carry away the warm top layer.

Poison sprays used on farm crops are suspected of causing deaths of many small birds, but how many are thus killed cannot be learned.

Everyday names for birds, says the Scientific Monthly, generally come from one of these features: color; voice; form, either as a whole or in detail; or some striking peculiarity in habit.

## 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

What did Indians feast on, in ancient Minnesota? p. 201.

## ASTRONOMY

How can midwinter skies be pre-viewed in autumn? p. 202.

What is a super-nova? p. 195.

## AVIATION

What are the limits of airplane performance? p. 205.

## CARTOGRAPHY

What parallels are recommended as baselines for world weather maps? p. 201.

## CONSERVATION

What effect do refuges have on game abundance? p. 200.

## ENGINEERING

Where is the new Treasure Island? p. 197.

## ENTOMOLOGY

What kind of bees have no fathers? p. 206.

## FOOD TECHNOLOGY

What can pituitary gland injections do for cows? p. 199.

## GENERAL SCIENCE

How has American money helped in China? p. 200.

## GENETICS

What do milk records mean to bulls? p. 201.

## ICHTHYOLOGY

In what way are flying fish like airplanes? p. 200.

## PHYSICS

How can heat defeat fog? p. 198.

## PHYSIOLOGY

What causes catalepsy in cats? p. 201.

Who is studying the panting of dogs? p. 198.

## PSYCHOLOGY

What is "PQ"? p. 200.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

How can cholera be checked? p. 201.

When will poliomyelitis stop? p. 204.

## RADIOLOGY

How do X-rays effect the killing of cancer cells? p. 196.

What test proves whether an infant died before or after birth? p. 196.

# Which Brands Are Best Buys?



**Consumers Union Reports**, monthly publication of Consumers Union of United States, gives you the results of unbiased tests on the products listed below in current issues—in most cases with ratings as “Best Buys,” “Also Acceptable,” and “Not Acceptable.”

<p><b>Photographic Films</b> EXPOSURE METERS, RANGE FINDERS, FILTERS, TRIPODS and SYNCHRONIZERS</p> <p>Six separate reports prepared by photographic experts compare the quality and the value of leading brands of the six types of photographic equipment listed above. Ratings are given in some cases under the headings, “Best Buys,” “Also Acceptable,” and “Not Acceptable.” Reports in previous issues (still available—see coupon below) gave comparisons of over 60 makes of miniature and non-miniature cameras.</p>	<p><b>Mechanical Refrigerators</b> Ratings of 1937 Models</p> <p>Twenty-one models of the 1937 makes of mechanical refrigerators are rated as “Best Buys,” “Also Acceptable,” and “Not Acceptable.” Included in the ratings are the Norge, General Electric, Frigidaire, Kelvinator and Westinghouse. Prospective purchasers of refrigerators can make substantial savings—on operating costs as well as on the original purchase price—by following the advice given in this report.</p>	<p><b>Inner Tubes</b></p> <p>Tested for thickness, volume and weight of rubber, tensile strength and elasticity, resistance to aging and other factors, 23 brands of inner tubes—including such brands as Lee, Seiberling, Mohawk, Firestone, Goodrich and Goodyear—are rated twice: first for quality, then for quality and price. Only 3 brands are listed as “Best Buys.”</p>
<p><b>Auto Radios</b></p> <p>One of the 14 models in this report is rated as a “Best Buy.” Two are “Not Acceptable.” Arvin, Motorola, and Philco models are included in the ratings. In addition to ratings on the basis of price and quality, rankings are given on the basis of performance alone. Advice is also given on which type of auto aerial to use.</p>	<p><b>Ice Cream</b> Bulk or Package?</p> <p>Between a pint of ice cream in bulk and a pint of package ice cream there is on the average a difference of six ounces in weight, this survey of 23 samples of ice cream shows. Samples were tested for bacterial contamination, butterfat content, flavor and texture, and comparative economy on a weight basis.</p>	<p><b>Oil Burners &amp; Coal Stokers</b> Engineers’ Advice on Heating Systems</p> <p>Numerous makes of automatic oil and coal heating equipment are compared and rated on the score of efficiency and economy. Nearly a hundred makes of oil burners, coal stokers, boilers, and hand-fired coal furnaces are rated as “Best Buys,” “Also Acceptable,” and “Not Acceptable.”</p>
<p><b>Breakfast Cereals</b> If Barnum Were Alive . . .</p> <p>He would probably find a career in cereals, where circus tactics outweigh actual virtues as sales appeals, to his liking. A report on 37 brands, including Quaker Oats, Shredded Wheat and Grape Nuts, shows most cereals to be cheap foods in expensive forms; gives tables showing the relative costs of brands in terms of the number of calories one cent will buy. A cent will buy from as little as 36 calories to as much as 275 calories depending on the brand you select.</p>	<p><b>Women’s Slips</b> Some Are Part Lead</p> <p>27 rayon and silk slips, ranging in price from 69c to \$2.98, are rated on the basis of tests. A few brands were heavily weighted with lead or tin salts, a few were misleadingly labeled.</p>	<p><b>Winter Motor Oils,</b> Household Oils &amp; Typewriters</p> <p>Three reports give ratings of winter motor oils and household oils and preliminary recommendations on portable typewriters for the benefit of students and others who must buy a machine this month. Next month’s issue will report in full the results of extensive tests on portable models of the best known machines.</p>

**LET EXPERTS WORK FOR YOU** Consumers Union of United States, which publishes *Consumers Union Reports*, is a non-profit, membership organization with 40,000 members throughout the United States. It is controlled entirely by its members and is sponsored by over 70 nationally famous scientists, educators, government officials, editors and authors. Each month in *Consumers Union Reports* the results of unprejudiced tests of the comparative value of such products as automobiles, shoes, radios, cameras, etc., are given with ratings in terms of brand names.

By mailing the coupon below you can immediately secure a copy of the current issues with the reports listed above. (Or, if you wish you can start your membership with any of the previous issues listed in the coupon). The membership fee of \$3 which brings you twelve monthly issues of the *Reports* also brings you without extra charge the 1937 240-page *Consumers Union Buying Guide* which lists more than a thousand products as “Best Buys,” “Also Acceptable,” and “Not Acceptable.” Information from many Consumers Union members indicates that the regular use of these *Reports* and the *Buying Guide* can save the average family from \$50 to \$300 a year.

<p>To: CONSUMERS UNION of United States, Inc. 55 Vandam Street, New York, N. Y.</p>	<p><b>Start WITH ANY OF THESE ISSUES:</b></p>
<p>I hereby apply for membership in Consumers Union. I enclose:</p>	<p>Please check the issue or issues with which you wish your membership to begin.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> \$3 for one year's membership, \$2.50 of which is for a year's subscription to the complete edition of <i>Consumers Union Reports</i>.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Dec.—Fountain Pens, Vacuum Cleaners, Blankets.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> \$1 for one year's membership, 50c of which is for a year's subscription to the limited edition of <i>Consumers Union Reports</i>. (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.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Jan.-Feb.—Men's Suits, Cold Remedies, Shaving Creams.</p>
<p>Signature .....</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> March—Autos, Flour, Face Powders.</p>
<p>Address .....</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> April—Shirts, Cold Creams, Gardening.</p>
<p>City &amp; State ..... Occupation.....</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> May—Trallers, Washing Machines, and the first of a series of articles on the cases and treatment of constipation.</p>
<p>L-9</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> June—Large Cameras, House Dresses, Radio Tubes, Sanitary Napkins.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> July—Miniature Cameras, Gasolines, Golf Balls, Tennis Balls &amp; Rackets, Motor Oils.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Aug.-Sept. — Refrigerators, Photographic Films, Ice Cream, Inner Tubes, Raincoats.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Oct.—Oil Burners &amp; Coal Stokers, Auto Radios, Breakfast Cereals, Women's Slips, Price-Fixing.</p>