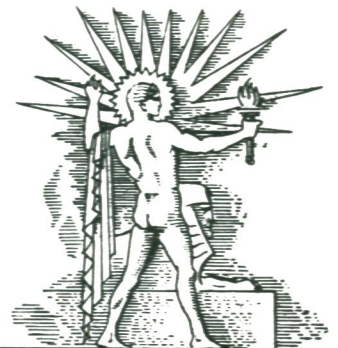


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



December 11, 1937

Wind and Weather

See Page 381

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

Do You Know?

In Europe zoological parks are frequently open to visitors at night.

A new product to absorb sound is a porous stone tile for lining walls and ceilings.

The world's only Museum of Biblical Botany is in Palestine at the Hebrew University.

Bats have a homing instinct, and have been known to fly 65 miles back to a favorite roost.

Cauliflower and broccoli are found to be rich in vitamin C, sometimes called the anti-scurvy vitamin.

Rayon mixed with wool to produce a cheaper fabric is harder to detect than cotton in a woolen material.

Rocks 200 miles under the earth's surface conduct electricity more freely than rocks only a few miles down.

An electric refrigerator was sold to an Eskimo, at the recent Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

The spruce gall aphid is a serious enemy of ornamental Norway and white spruce trees but does little damage to such trees grown for timber production.

Streamlined hogs are in fashion now, as the demand swings toward a longer, narrower animal that will yield medium cuts of meat.

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS ISSUE

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

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What kind of water causes thirst? page 377.

Australia's merino sheep yield about three times as much wool as they did a hundred years ago.

"The most important, most all-pervading need of the young child is a feeling of security," says the Child Study Association of America.

One hundred years ago, 1837, Samuel G. Howe started his great experiment of teaching a deaf-blind child, Laura Bridgman, to communicate with others and become an educated and useful human being.

A new discovery of emeralds was made recently in northeastern Transvaal, Africa.

A flower vase should be washed clean with hot water and soap, lest bacteria that decay the stems of flowers survive in the vase.

Excavating the moat at historic Fort Marion, at St. Augustine, Florida, government archaeologists have found Indian pottery, pipes, bullets, cannon balls, ink wells, and other relics discarded and buried since the fort was built in 1672.

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CONSUMERS UNION

Announces

reports on **1938 AUTOS** and **1938 RADIOS**

Also in the current issue:

Electric Shavers

Will electric shavers give as close or as satisfactory a shave as ordinary safety razors? Do they irritate more or less? Are they worth the high price? Nine brands ranging in price from \$7.50 to \$17.50 were subjected to use tests and engineering examination and rated as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable." Those who look forward to a shaver's paradise with an electric shaver should read this report before buying.

Cigars

No amount of cellophane, Xmas seals and red ribbons can disguise a bad cigar. This report, which rates 20 brands (including White Owl, Robert Burns, Cremo and Phillies) should be particularly welcomed by cigar-giving CU members.

Toys

No gift can cause the giver more anxiety than toys. At what age should electric trains be given? What kinds of toys do children get the most enjoyment and the most value out of and at what ages? Which types of toys should be avoided? Three reports in this issue answer these questions. The first, based on the recommendations of a director of a widely-known nursery school, tells which toys should be given to children between the ages of two to six; the second rates toy chemistry sets, and the third discusses dolls.

Lipsticks

More than 40 brands are rated in this report. Stains caused by some of these brands would not wash out in tests. Many brands were grossly over-priced—one brand showing a mark-up of 5000% over the cost of the ingredients. Another caused marked irritation. Several ten cent brands were rated "Best Buys."

Life Insurance

The second of a series of reports on life insurance—the first of which described briefly how the life insurance business operates. This report analyzes life insurance premiums. Next month's installment will give specific recommendations on types of contracts.

Baked Beans, etc.

Other reports in this issue give valuable buying advice on baked beans, canned salmon and electric toothbrushes.

Coming!

Reports on cigarettes, coffee, shoes, razor blades and other products. Also a series on housing and building materials.

To make sure of receiving the reports described above fill in and mail the coupon at the right.

Have there been any improvements in cars this year of importance to consumers?

What changes in gearshifting mechanisms have been made and of what importance are they?

Are the 1938 cars more economical to operate than the 1937 cars?

What changes in tuning have been made on the 1938 radios and how desirable are they?

What other changes have been made and how important are they?

These and many similar questions are answered in the reports described below.

AUTOS Prices are up approximately 10% making technical guidance in buying more necessary than ever. A preliminary technical appraisal of the 1938 models by Consumers Union's automotive consultants appearing in the current (December) issue of *Consumers Union Reports* gives a summary of the important changes on each of more than 25 models (including the Ford, Chevrolet, Buick and Packard). The significance of each change is indicated. Trailers are also discussed. Read this report before buying any car! It will give you a basis for making a wise selection. A later issue will carry ratings of the 1938 cars by name as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable."

RADIOS Prices are up in this field, too. In nearly every brand the buyer must pay more this year than he did last year for a radio capable of any given level of performance. A report, based on performance tests for such factors as tone quality, ability to get stations without interference, ability to pick up weak stations with satisfactory volume, general mechanical excellence, etc., rates the leading 1938 models as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable." Five communications-type receivers for advanced amateurs are also compared.

OTHER REPORTS in the December issue are described in the column at the left. To receive a copy of this issue fill in and mail the coupon below. The membership fee of \$3 will bring you 12 issues of the *Reports* and without extra charge, the 1937 240-page *Consumers Union Annual Buying Guide* which gives brand recommendations on over 1,000 products. You can start your membership with the current issue or with any of the previous issues listed below.

WHAT CONSUMERS UNION IS—Consumers Union of United States is a non-profit, membership organization established to conduct research and tests on consumer goods and to provide consumers with information which will permit them to buy their food, clothing, household supplies and other products most intelligently. Tests are conducted by expert staff technicians with the help of over 200 consultants in university, government and private laboratories. In most cases, comparisons of the quality of products are given in terms of brand names with ratings as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable." Information is also given on the labor conditions under which products are made. The sound, constructive advice on buying contained in *Consumers Union Reports* can help keep expenses down at the present time when living costs are going up.

Some of the Subjects Covered in Past Issues of the Reports

- | | |
|---|--|
| MAY—Trailers, Washing Machines, Moth Preventives, Constipation. | AUG.-SEPT. — Refrigerators, Films, Ice Cream, Inner Tubes. |
| JUNE—Non-miniature Cameras, Radio Tubes, Sanitary Napkins. | OCT.—Oil Burners and Coal Stokers, Breakfast Cereals, Auto Radios. |
| JULY—Miniature Cameras, Gasolines, Golf Balls, Motor Oils. | NOV.—Life Insurance, Portable Typewriters, Men's Hats, Anti-Freezes. |



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