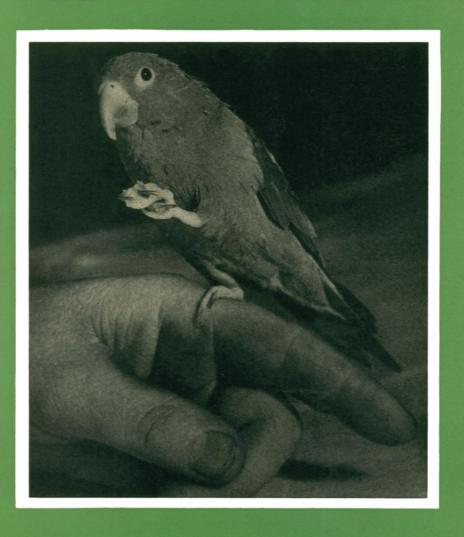
SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE.





May 21, 1938



Southclaw

See Page 332

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Pheasants are flourishing in 27 states, and are expected to provide good hunting in at least 20.

Judging by their size, the biggest dinosaurs may have eaten 500 to 1,000 pounds of food a day.

It costs five times as much to stop an automobile from a speed of 60 miles an hour as from 10 miles an hour.

A new British process to keep wool from shrinking is gaining wide interest among textile manufacturers in England.

The Osage orange tree was so valued by Osage Indians as a source of wood for war clubs and bows that they are said to have made long trips in search

To find out where a salmon would deliver a letter, Norse scientists attached a note in a cylinder to a salmon's fin; and the fish arrived in northern Russia, 2800 miles away.

Diabetes is a more common cause of death in the United States than in any other nation, a record which is blamed in part on rich food, lack of exercise, and nervous tension of life.

A University of Michigan psychologist has compiled a list of 6,000 words associated with various vocations, which he uses in vocabulary tests in gauging aptitude of individuals for certain careers.

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.

ASTRONOMY

How far away is the closest of the stars?

How far away is the closest of the stars: p. 327.

What heavenly body may have an atmosphere of liquid air? p. 332.

Why do scientists search for a planet beyond Pluto? p. 333.

BOTANY

Where was poison ivy used as a medicine? p. 338.

Can a product made from waste be made to drive your automobile? p. 332.

ENGINEERING

How can invisible light be changed to visible for illumination? p. 327.

ENTOMOLOGY

What creature can travel sixty miles an hour? p. 333.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How is the work of T. V. A. linked with the welfare of farmers? p. 330.

GEOLOGY

How have rock fragments from Antarctica changed the theories of geologists? p. 331.
Was there once a drifting continent in what is now the sea? p. 328.

MEDICINE

Can eugenics rid the world of cancer?

ORNITHOLOGY

Are parrots ever left-footed? p. 332.

What will polarized light mean to the future of industry? p. 333.

PHYSIOLOGY

Can spinach prevent automobile accidents?

PHYSIOLOGY—CHEMISTRY

What is the heaviest of the body chemicals? p. 327.

PSYCHIATRY

Can the mental disease dementia precox be cured? p. 334.

PSYCHIATRY—PSYCHOLOGY

What experience of mental hospitals points to a way of avoiding war? p. 332.

SOCIOLOGY

Is city life ideal for human culture? p. 328.

Dead blood cells give a bruise its black-and-blue color.

Babylonians used clay envelopes for clay documents; but in later times paper notes were first enclosed in envelopes in the seventeenth century.

A new device for boiling and sterilizing surgical instruments is a glass enclosed electric coil that produces boiling water in 12 seconds and turns it to steam in three more seconds.

German canners have found a satisfactory way of making a transparent plastic container for preserved foods.

Germany has 560 museums "for the preservation of German culture" in German-speaking territories outside the Reich.

As many as 15 ingredients may go into medicine concocted for a disease by a medicine man of the Potawatomi Indian tribe.

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 33

MAY 21, 1938

No. 21

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE. Inc., 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C., Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have privilege of subscribing to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at the reduced price of §3 per year. Applications for this privilege should be accompanied by privilege card obtained from the Permanent Secretary, A.A.A.S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one, at least two weeks before change is to become

Copyright, 1938 by Science Service, Inc. Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, maga-

zines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Cable address: Scienserve, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of
March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed
form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark. U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature
and in the Engineering Index.

Advertising rates on application. Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

Audit Bureau of Circulation.

SCIENCE SERVICE is the Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation, with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the E. W. Scripps Estate and the journalistic profession.

Board of Trustees—Honorary President: William E. Ritter, University of California, Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, J. McKeen Cattell, Editor, Science, Garrison, N. Y.; Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.; Edwin G. Conkin, President, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa. Representing the National

Academy of Sciences, W. H. Howell, Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; R. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; Harlow Shapley, Director, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. Representing National Research Council; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe, Editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, Washington, D. C.; Ross G. Harrison, Director, Osborn Zoological Laboratory, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. Representing Journalistic Profession, John H. Finley, Editor, New York Times; J. Edwin Murphy, Managing Editor, Baltimore Evening Sun, Baltimore, Md.; O. W. Riegel, Director, Lee School of Journalism, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va. Representing E. W. Scripps Estate, Harry L. Smithton, Treasurer, Cincinnati, Ohio; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Staff—Director, Watson Davis; Writers: Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Robert Potter, Ronald L. Ives, Leonard Engel; Correspondents in principal cities and centers of research. Photography: Fremont Davis; Librarian: Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising: Hallie Jenkins, Austin Winant, Howard Bandy.