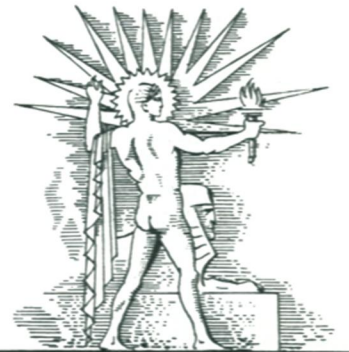


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



December 24, 1938

Danger!

See Page 409

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?

Cactus plants are often decorated as Christmas trees in Arizona desert country.

No less than 109 breeds of dogs are recognized by the American Kennel Club.

Among the novelty toys of the past were French tops so turned that they cast shadow portraits of Marie Antoinette and Louis the Sixteenth.

The skin and wool of the goat have clothed people in semi-arid lands since the dawn of history, and the goats helped to make conditions more arid.

Only 300 passenger automobiles, on an average day, are moving in coast-to-coast trips on the main east and west highways across the United States.

Armadillos are sometimes compared to turtles, but they are actually not very similar, since the armadillo has flexible armor and is a mammal, not a reptile.

Inventions are usually made by men under 40, often without scientific training, is the observation of Sir James Swinburne, president of the British Institute of Plastics.

An increase in eye accidents reported in British industrial plants has led the Royal Eye Hospital in London to open a permanent museum, to teach workmen who come to the hospital more about eye hazards.

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 common drug has just been found as a natural mineral? p. 410.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How many Americans suffer from allergy? p. 408.

Why is parrot fever worrying the U. S. Public Health Service? p. 411.

According to Aristotle, ticks would not attach themselves to donkeys.

Epileptic sufferers will be forbidden to drive cars in California, if a proposed law aiming to reduce accidents is enacted.

The Works Progress Administration has done improvement work at 169 of the 191 regular airline stops in the United States.

The thumb print of a prehistoric Indian left in a lump of clay found at Indian ruins in Arizona was recently examined by an officer of San Diego's police department.

Mistletoe grows in southern England, but not farther north in Britain.

A maple leaf 21 by 22 inches was entered last year in Canada's annual contest for the biggest and most beautiful maple leaves.

Heart diseases are the leading cause of death in the United States, but not for Indians—tuberculosis is their most deadly disease.

Poultry experts who want hens to lay eggs with thicker, and therefore stronger, shells find that thick shells are partly dependent on the hen's diet and partly on heredity.

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 34 DECEMBER 24, 1938 No. 26

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.

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Cable address: Scienserv, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the post-office 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.

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.

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1939 RADIOS Do the new 1939 models show any improvement over 1938 models? Is "Mystery Control" worth the price? What's a good buy in a midget set? In a table model? In a console? Divided into five price classifications ranging from under \$15 to more than \$100, over 30 models are rated as "Best Buys", "Also Acceptable", and "Not Acceptable".

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