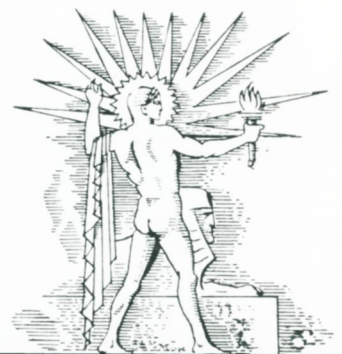
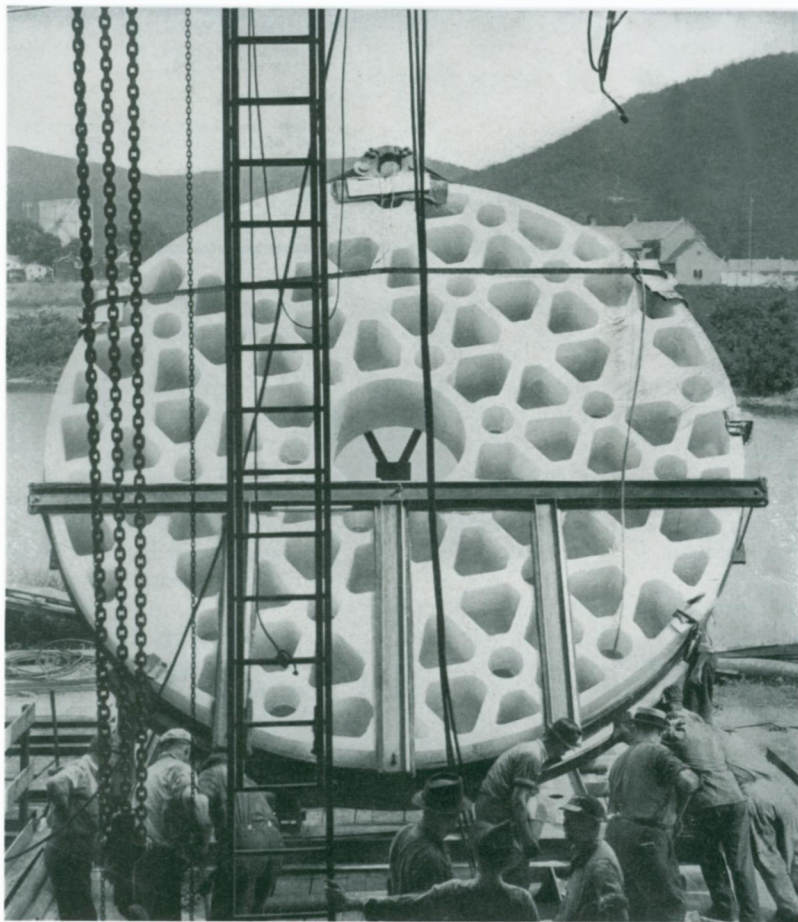


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



August 26, 1939

## Unusual Monument

See page 137

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?

Japan has a record wheat crop this year.

There are 16,000,000 thunderstorms a year throughout the world.

The desert tortoise is now protected in California by a law prohibiting sale of these animals.

About one-half the men who apply for positions in the flying cadets fail because of poor eyesight.

Although Down House, the home of Charles Darwin, is not easy to reach from London, it is visited by over 7,000 people a year.

Marble statues that remain in the sea for a long time usually are injured by corrosion or barnacles, but bronzes suffer little damage.

The Buffalo Museum of Science is exhibiting modern stylish hats and primitive headgear to compare the arts and artifacts of the world's peoples.

On recommendation of the League of Nations, 21 countries have formed national nutrition committees, to find out what foods their people lack for health.

Soviet Russia is trying the experiment of giving medical students a five-year course, of which the first three years are the same for all, and in the last two the student chooses between general medicine, public health, or diseases of children.

## 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.

### AERONAUTICS

What plea is made by the Chairman of the C.A.A. to young pilots? p. 141.

### AGRICULTURE

What tool had most to do with the winning of the West? p. 136.

### ASTRONOMY

How can the amateur astronomer be useful to science? p. 135.

Where has a monument been erected to glass and astronomy? p. 137.

### CHEMISTRY

From what do scientists hope to make a substitute for oil? p. 137.

What is the equation for death? p. 136.

### EUGENICS

By what plan could genius be everyone's birthright? p. 131.

### ENGINEERING

How can hydrochloric gas be detected in transformers? p. 133.

Where will Uncle Sam sail model ships? p. 134.

### GENETICS

Why do scientists want to halve the chromosomes in plants? p. 136.

### GEOGRAPHY

How does the Government propose to develop Alaska? p. 140.

What will the men eat on the U. S. expedition to the Antarctic? p. 138.

### METALLURGY

Why do the Nazis need purer iron? p. 143.

### METEOROLOGY

What city gets its "weather by the week"? p. 137.

### PHYSICS

What causes ionization of the radio reflecting layer  $F_2$ ? p. 133.

Why is Professor Millikan sailing around the world? p. 142.

### PSYCHOLOGY

How do the schools encourage the survival of superstition? p. 142.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

What enemy of the whole world is being fought by Danzig? p. 136.

Some kinds of cockroaches require five years to grow up.

A six-foot globe showing the earth's features accurately in full relief is a new geographic product.

Airplanes were catapulted for the first time in polar exploration during the recent German Antarctic Expedition.

A fifteenth century writer described a greyhound as a dog with "the head of a snake, the neck of a drake, the foot of a cat, the tail of a rat, the side of a bream, and the back like a beam."

Some guinea pigs bred for show have hair so long the animal resembles a mop.

Fishes' eyes are so placed that they can scarcely see below the level of the head.

English physicians used to carry a gold headed cane with herbs in the hollow head, believing this would protect them from diseases.

An ancient writer said that the Greeks made their spears so that, if the head broke off, the spear could be reversed and the butt became a striking weapon.

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