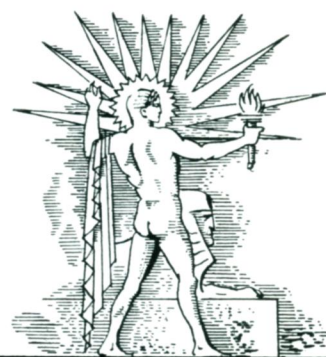


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



September 23, 1939

## Modern Death

See page 202

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

Fifteen hundred omnibuses in Italy are fueled with methane, or marsh gas.

About half the varieties of trees found throughout the States grow in Florida.

The African warthog keeps its eyes on possible danger, even backing into its home.

There are now fewer than 50,000 Germans in the colonies formerly owned by Germany.

"Wool" made from milk resembles sheep's wool more closely than rayon resembles silk.

In 23 years, births of 70 sets of quadruplets have been reported in the areas of the United States that register births.

The mystery of how a hen produces the calcium for egg shells has been explained: gland mechanisms control the process.

Napoleon III had hopes of using aluminum to lighten his soldiers' equipment load, but it cost several hundred dollars a pound.

British engineers have designed a cubicle big enough for bed, chair, and table which may be air conditioned to provide comfort in the tropics.

A one-coat finish which can be sprayed on all-metal transport planes is a weight-saving device, as it adds only 15 pounds in contrast to the 40-pound limit allowed for paint.

## 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.

### BOTANY

What fungicide has been found to double chromosome numbers? p. 200.

### CHEMISTRY

How can bacteria cause a gasoline explosion? p. 199.

What has research done toward preventing war? p. 199.

What is the latest vitamin discovery? p. 200.

What refrigerant is used in the world's coldest refrigerator? p. 206.

Where can you buy heavy carbon atoms— at \$400 an ounce? p. 206.

### CHEMISTRY—AGRICULTURE

What chemical will be used to redden the cheeks of apples? p. 201.

### ETHNOLOGY

Who is "grandmother" to the Australian natives? p. 200.

### MEDICINE

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How can the surgeon relieve palsy? p. 198.

How does nature provide protection against breast cancer? p. 196.

What discovery brings nearer the possibility of vaccination against cancer? p. 195.

What new use has medicine found for colchicine? p. 195.

Why are coffee drinkers safe from the cancer-producing tars in coffee? p. 196.

### MILITARY SCIENCE

With what new weapons is Uncle Sam arming? p. 202.

### OCEANOGRAPHY

What new hazard has taken its place with icebergs and derelicts on the Hydrographic Office warnings? p. 201.

### PHYSICS

What old phenomenon is put to modern use in blackouts? p. 207.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What unpleasant invader has gone from America to Japan? p. 200.

### PSYCHIATRY

How is the mental disease schizophrenia linked with thyroid deficiency? p. 204.

### PSYCHOLOGY

How do rats develop a "working class"? p. 197.

How do teachers' marks compare with a child's achievement? p. 203.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

What effect will the war have on nutrition in Europe? p. 196.

Towns in Roman Britain rarely had more than 5,000 people; London per-haps had as many as 15,000.

The automobile industry salvages about a million tons of waste materials each year, involving savings of more than ten million dollars.

There is no basis for the notion that saturating the system with iodine will keep hair from turning gray and give it a reddish brown tinge, says the American Medical Association.

A process of melting unbreakable watch crystals into place is said to seal the crystal in permanently with dust-proof tightness.

Italy figures that she can save 50,000 tons of coal by using rice wastes as fuel.

Japan is short on dyestuffs as a result of drastic curtailment of imports.

Superstitious folk gave the witch hazel plant its name, in awe of supposed powers of a plant that blooms late in autumn and ripens its fruit in spring.

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