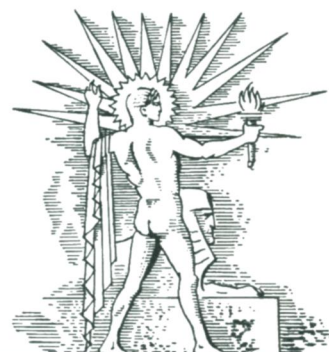


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



October 21, 1939

Floral Nocturne

See Page 260

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

The blue berry of the *Clintonia* fruit is a rare case of pure blue color in nature, minus any purplish tinge.

North America's greatest "duck factory" is the breeding ground region in Canada's western provinces.

Before the present war, Germany got all of the coal for her iron and steel production from the Saar basin.

An Italian coffee expert sought recently to see wild coffee growing in Ethiopia, and eventually found some in the south, in jungle thicket.

The first white men to see American corn were two scouts sent by Columbus into the interior of Cuba, during the famous visit of 1492.

On advice of the U. S. Weather Bureau, the Wright brothers chose Kill Devil Hill region for their famous first successful airplane flight.

A British dentist blames extraction of 2,500,000 temporary teeth and 500,000 permanent teeth of British children on widespread lack of dental care.

To keep close check on America's production, consumption, and stocks of strategic minerals, the U. S. Bureau of Mines has started monthly canvasses.

German agriculturists are trying to crowd several harvests into the year, and in greenhouse experiments four crops of vegetables in a year have been raised.

## NEW BOOKS ON SCIENCE—FALL 1939

*This issue contains Science Service's semi-annual comprehensive bibliography of current books in various scientific fields. It lists those published or promised during the latter half of this year. Books are intelligent companions for recreation or useful tools for research. Books like those in this list will make exceptional Christmas gifts. It is not too early to begin to think about your gift problems and SCIENCE NEWS LETTER will aid you with special suggestions if you wish them. SCIENCE NEWS LETTER will obtain for you any American book or magazine in print. Send check or money order to cover regular retail price (\$5 if price is unknown, change to be remitted) and we shall pay postage in the United States. When publications are free, send 10c for handling. Address: Book Department, SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.*

In 12 states there are laws against driving too slowly.

Oxford University geologists are mapping the Central Andes in Peru.

Trains of motor trucks hauling ten trailers are used on Italy's new express roads.

In 6,000 years, 24,000 generations of mice are born, but only 200 generations of men.

A beaver weighs about a pound to the inch of length, and the average beaver is 40 to 50 inches long.

An Oklahoma oil well has been drilled to 14,479 feet, and may go deeper than California's record-breaking 15,004-foot well.

The United States is almost entirely dependent on India for high-grade mica used in radio transmitter condensers and airplane spark plugs.

Growing tung trees is being tried in Oklahoma.

The national record for deer antlers is a spread of a little over 30 inches.

Winds in the Antarctic travel up to 60 miles an hour on land, and faster at sea.

The United States in 1938 used about six and one-half pounds of rayon to every pound of silk.

An expert at spearing big sea game says that an octopus, even when not fully developed, is far stronger than a man.

Japan's commercial fishermen catch the most fish by weight, of any country; but United States fishery products outrank Japanese in value.

Nearly half the wheat acreage in the United States was harvested last year by combine machines that reap and thresh the grain in one operation.

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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