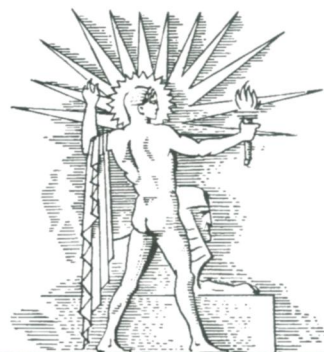
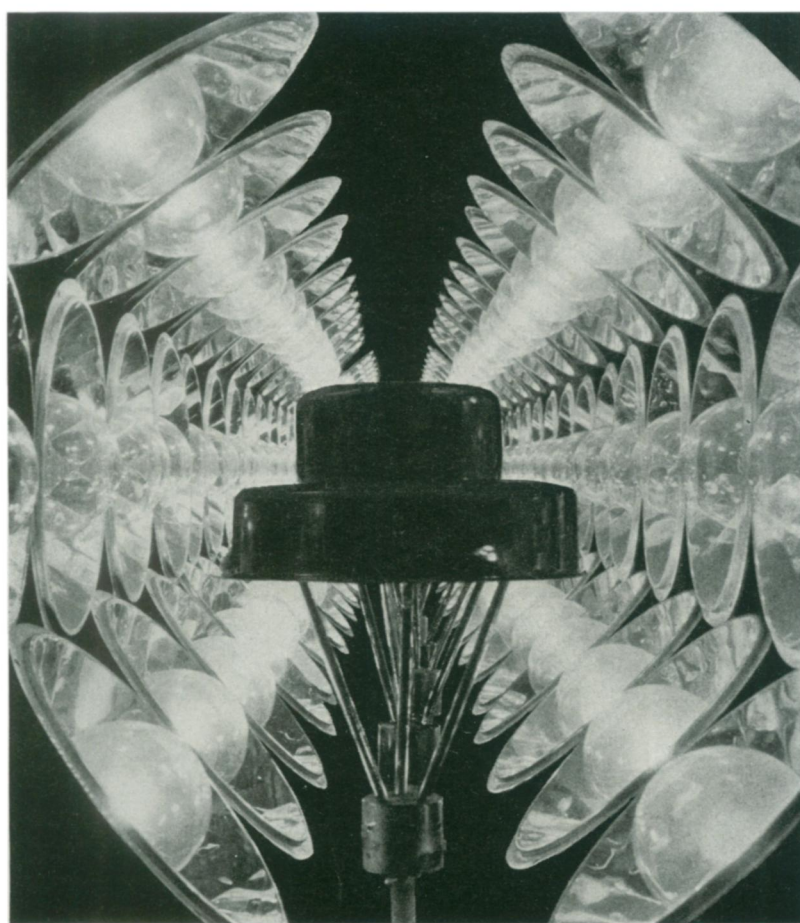


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



April 13, 1940

Drying

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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?

Construction of the *Maginot* Line in France is estimated to have cost nearly three billion dollars.

The Bureau of Mines at Washington maintains the largest library of educational *motion pictures* in the world.

*Otters* enjoy sliding down hill, and deliberately make a snow or mud slide just for the fun of repeatedly going down it.

Locating a missing buoy sunk under water has been successfully achieved by a recording *sounding* device installed on a Coast Guard tender.

Rumania's second defense line includes a chain of *canals* which could be filled with oil by underground pipes and set afire in time of attack.

A new *Polaroid* device to make pictures fade gradually on and off a screen is designed to give amateur motion pictures a Hollywood touch.

A *pygmy hippopotamus* full-grown weighs about 450 pounds, in contrast with an ordinary hippo which may weigh 5,000 or 6,000 pounds.

Tests show that *winter wheat* in Kansas fails completely 71% of the time if seeded in dust, whereas plantings made when the soil is damp a foot deep fail only about one year in three, and when water has penetrated the soil two feet, odds are six to one against crop failure.

## 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.*

### AGRICULTURE—CHEMISTRY

What new market has been created for American-grown flax? p. 229.

### BIOLOGY

What theories are held regarding the nature of viruses? p. 231.

### CHEMISTRY

What vitamins are found in grass? p. 231.  
In what industry will sodium chlorite be useful? p. 232.

### CONSERVATION

Where are Europe's oldest yew trees? p. 237.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

What has happened to the Polish universities? p. 232.

### HORTICULTURE

What is gravel culture? p. 234.  
How are hotcaps made? p. 230.

### INVENTIONS

How can magnetism help bowling? p. 232.

### MEDICINE

How can pernicious anemia be prevented? p. 227.

Which new drug is best for pneumonia? p. 228.

What vitamin is mobilized by alcohol? p. 233.

What promise is held by experiments on an anti-tumor serum? p. 233.

### PSYCHOLOGY

Of what help can ink blots be in treating mental disease? p. 238.

Who will tell lies to the census taker? p. 238.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Where is America's medical *Maginot* Line? p. 228.

Why does famine threaten North China? p. 230.

In what distant land is a new American serum being given its most stringent test? p. 233.

### VOLCANOLOGY

What heavenly bodies can trigger volcanic outbursts? p. 233.

*Great Salt Lake* is a remnant of a lake once 300 miles long and 1,000 feet deep.

There were 149 epidemics of *yellow fever* in the United States between 1668 and 1893.

Texas has the longest international *frontier* of any State: 1,300 miles adjoining Mexico.

In remote regions of Alaska the 1940 *Census* is taken by local employees of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

The Suez Canal route saves *shipping* about 4,500 miles in trade voyages between Europe and India.

Artificially *flattening* the head is an old custom found by anthropologists in every continent of the world, except Australia.

Most hoofed animals have horizontal *eye pupils*, possibly an aid in spying enemies while grazing.

*Kudzu*, a Japanese vine useful as shade and forage, is proving one of the best erosion-control plants in the Southeast.

*True's Whale*, a strange beak-nosed creature of the North Atlantic, was first captured in 1913, and specimens are still rare.

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