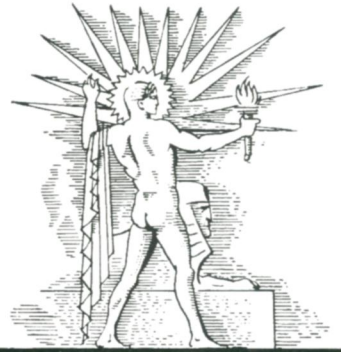
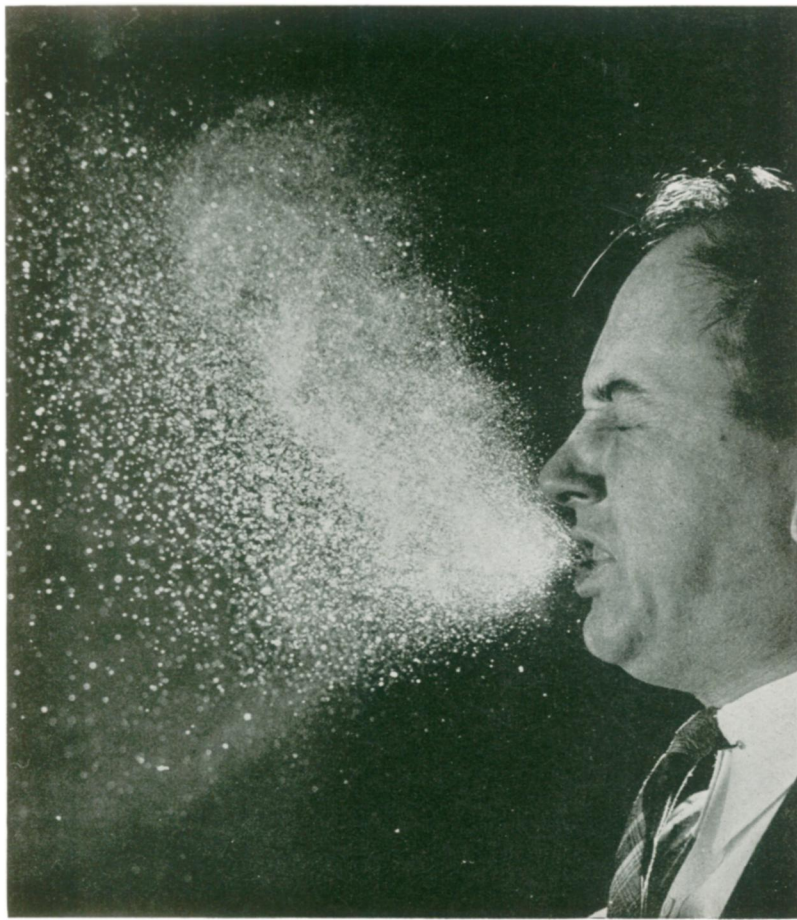


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



April 27, 1940

Germ Barrage

See Page 269

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?

An Australian insect imported to battle the long-tail *mealybug*, pest of California orange groves, is reported making good.

Germany figures that 100,000 sports fishermen who have volunteered to aid with the food supply will catch 5,000,000 pounds of *fish* this year.

The South Magnetic *Pole* is generally believed to cover an area of ten or more miles, and apparently shifts from year to year.

In 50 years, more than 2,500 patents have been granted for *railroad tie* materials replacing wood, but wood is still in general use.

Scraps from the table should not be the sole diet of *pet animals*, a nutritionist warns, because they may lack some needed food elements.

*Soybeans*, famous Manchurian crop, are now coming to Europe in quantities from United States farms—result of war and shipping conditions.

*Chungking*, inland capital of the Chinese republic, has attracted the greatest gathering of talent, skill, and brains in modern China's history, says an American professor of political science, recently returned from the Orient.

In some regions of South Africa, wild animals plague automobile drivers at night by blocking roads and becoming blinded by car lights; but only the *rhinoceros* is considered dangerous, provided motorists stay inside their cars.

## 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 new idea may make armor practicable for airplanes? p. 263.

### AGRICULTURE

Where were new rust-resistant wheat varieties developed? p. 263.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

Where did American scientists unearth a "Rosetta Stone" for an old Persian language? p. 265.

Where was hair-pulling a customary method of warfare? p. 264.

### ASTRONOMY

What planet is at its brightest in May? p. 266.

### CHEMISTRY

Of what material are playing cards now made? p. 264.

What pleasant use has been found for castor oil? p. 265.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

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What effect did colchicine have on sex of a plant? p. 261.

What hazard is faced by physicists who work with neutron rays? p. 259.

What is necessary to make the fruits of science of constructive value to mankind? p. 261.

What proportion of visible red rays are reflected by the human cheek? p. 260.

What was the first of all musical instruments? p. 262.

When are the cosmic rays at their highest intensity? p. 260.

### MEDICINE

Do men dying from cold expire suddenly? p. 265.

What are the great advantages of the new swift treatment for syphilis? p. 263.

What causes the "Rubens' Venus" type of fault fat distribution? p. 270.

What danger may lie in a sex hormone treatment? p. 268.

What new relief has been found for sufferers with angina pectoris? p. 264.

What simple chemical has been found to work as maggots did to heal wound infections? p. 264.

Why does yeast cure cancer in mice? p. 268.

### MEDICINE—PHOTOGRAPHY

What did a super-speed photograph of a sneeze reveal? p. 269.

### PHYSICS

What kind of girdle was worn by the Queen Elizabeth? p. 267.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What new service to physiology is performed by the atom smasher? p. 270.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

What disease is spreading in England? p. 264.

### RESOURCES

How does the war in Scandinavia affect American book publishing? p. 262.

A *penguin* can sleep standing up, using its tail as an added support.

There are now nearly 2,000 *television* sets in homes in the New York area.

*Asbestos* is rated a critical mineral in United States defense chiefly because of its use in brake-band linings and clutch facings, making it important in trans-pire.

The historic mint building at Carson City will house Nevada's State *Museum*.

British coal miners are striving to produce 30,000,000 extra tons of *coal* needed by the nation for a war year.

A ghost-like makeup of *zinc oxide* is worn by some oil-well and pipe line workers, to avoid blisters and burns on their faces.

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