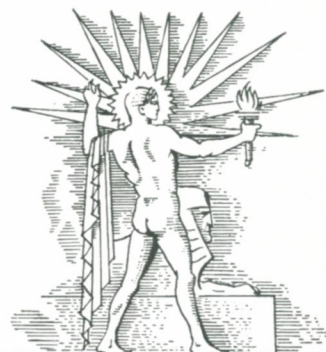


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



May 25, 1940

Parent and Child

See Page 332

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

An eighty-foot *blue whale* would weigh eighty tons, the equivalent of twenty male African elephants or of more than a thousand men.

Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, has a *portrait* studio where visitors may take this difficult type of picture with their own cameras, aided by a guide.

Maryland fur trappers report a new type of *muskrat*: the underfur is glossy and silky with rippled, wavy effects, and all guard hairs of the pelt are missing.

The scientific reason why *paper* sometimes curls annoyingly: it is due to differential expansion of the two sides of a sheet when atmospheric conditions change.

Calling West Virginia the country's most *duckless* state, a forestry professor blames lack of lakes and swamps for the ducks' tendency to keep flying when over this region.

Turkey has doubled farm acreage in the past ten years, and is in the favorable position of being self-sufficient in essential farm products except for coffee, tea, and rubber.

A "cloverleaf" *house* for four families is a novel design evolved by the U. S. Housing Authority, as having advantages over row houses.

For normal growth, a pig's *diet* requires at least five different vitamins and probably two more, says a University of California agriculturist.

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

How may the occupation of Iceland aid in delivery of American-made planes to the British? p. 326.

What is the war doing to the air power of belligerents? p. 327.

ASTRONOMY

How does the fall of Holland affect an astronomical observatory in Michigan? p. 325.

Why are the accepted astronomical distances likely to change materially? p. 324.

BIOLOGY

What sort of creature wears both scales and hair? p. 331.

What sort of organism has been found to manufacture food substances without the aid of chlorophyll or light? p. 333.

BOTANY

What sort of food can you find in the wild? p. 329.

CHEMISTRY

Where are made-in-America chemical products on display? p. 328.

CHEMISTRY—MILITARY SCIENCE

What gas might be used to paralyze soldiers in a closed space? p. 324.

GENETICS

How were marigolds half a foot in diameter produced? p. 332.

GEOGRAPHY—METEOROLOGY

In what part of the Americas can rubber be grown? p. 331.

GEOGRAPHY—MILITARY SCIENCE

What lessons for Alaska defense can be learned from Finland? p. 333.

LANGUAGE

How are French war names pronounced? p. 328.

MEDICINE

What new role has been found for vitamin B₁? p. 329.

Why is skin reddening not always a good index to X-ray dosage? p. 329.

MEDICINE—BIOLOGY

How can electric shock bring an electrocuted person back to life? p. 330.

What disease is carried by vampire bats? p. 330.

METEOROLOGY

What New England catastrophe had its origin in West Africa? p. 328.

NUTRITION—ECONOMICS

What kind of candy is a by-product of cheese? p. 328.

PHYSICS

Why is infra-red light of little value for seeing through fog? p. 329.

Why are the foundations of physical science subject to change? p. 323.

PHYSIOLOGY—PSYCHOLOGY

What happens in your brain when your eye sees a bright light? p. 325.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

What effect does the gas from moldy lemons have? p. 328.

POPULATION

Why is Brazil a good laboratory for study of population problems? p. 329.

PSYCHOLOGY

What is likely to be the psychological effect of the dropping of parachute troops? p. 323.

Sloping a *lawn*, even slightly, away from the house will help keep the cellar dry.

Entomologists have faint hope of finding a cure-all *spray* for insect pests, but progress is made in controlling a number of pests with one treatment.

The British Navy is adding vitamin C to its *cocoa* rations, as a nutrition experiment.

The technique of slantwise *drilling* has enabled oil men to drill as many as eight wells from the same surface location.

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