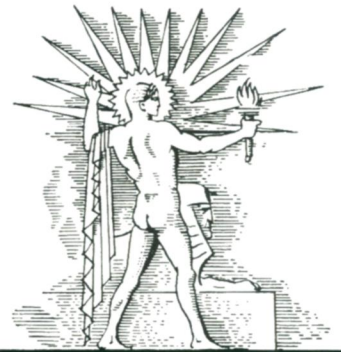
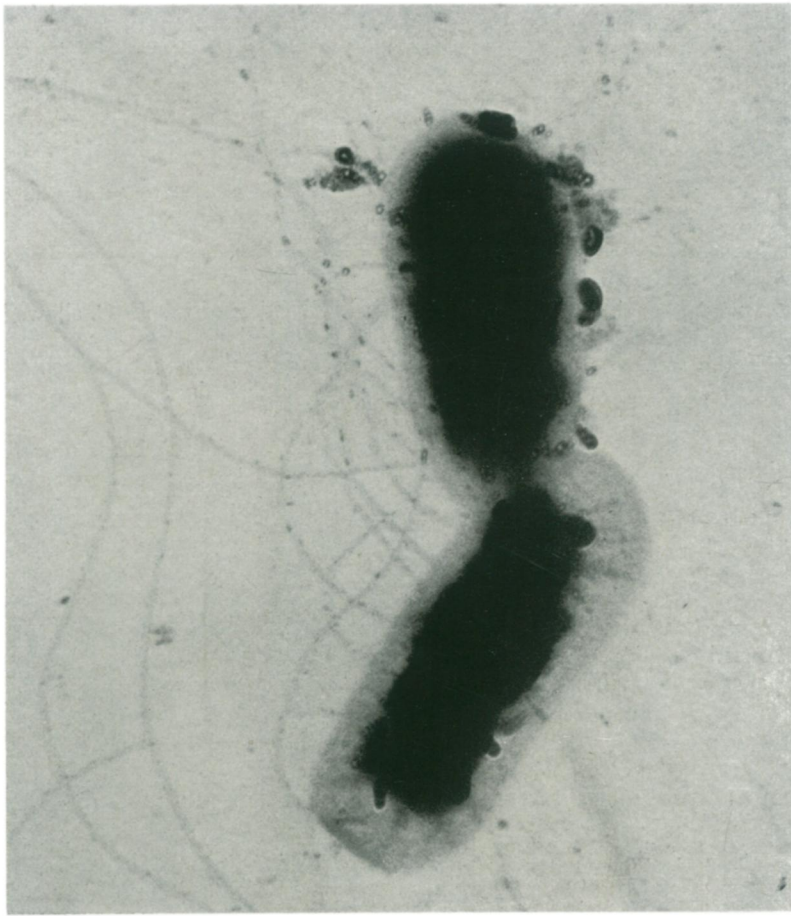


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



October 12, 1940

Germ, 45,000 x Life Size

See Page 230

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?

Apple juice squeezed at the soda fountain is in prospect.

Fire Prevention Week each year includes October 9—the anniversary of Chicago's great fire of 1871.

Seagoing birds that consistently roost on water have been known to accumulate barnacles on their bodies, as ships do.

Wolves are probably among the most devoted parents of the animal kingdom, says a writer in Natural History magazine.

Control in France has given Germany rich supplies of *bauxite*, aluminum-bearing clay—important for airplane manufacture.

Experiment stations are seeking cheaper ways of feeding silver foxes which will still produce lustrous, dense, and large fur skins.

Many of the London Zoo's fish had to be destroyed when it was realized that a bomb might cause the tank reservoirs to flood air-raid shelters.

To eliminate guesswork in selecting the proper tool steel for various uses, standards experts plan to classify the 1,000 brands on the market.

Paprika, which is now difficult to obtain from Spain, Yugoslavia, and Hungary, has been grown successfully in test plantings in Louisiana and Florida.

## 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.

### ANTHROPOLOGY

Why does a scientist believe Chief Powhatan is a composite personality? p. 233.

### ASTRONOMY

Why is Harvard's eclipse expedition likely to be successful regardless of the weather? p. 234.

Why is it likely to be difficult for American astronomers to view the sun's next eclipse? p. 234.

### CHEMISTRY

What new use has been found for tellurium, element with few applications? p. 232.

Why is air in the bottle neck bad for wine? p. 233.

### MEDICINE

Of what new evil have house flies been accused? p. 232.

What appeal is made by the surgeons of London? p. 232.

What symptoms of vitamin lack were noted in the Bible? p. 232.

### ORNITHOLOGY

What does a kiwi look like? p. 235.

### PHYSICS

What new chemical method has been found for speeding up camera lenses? p. 235.

What new instrument will make virus and vitamin visible? p. 227.

Why may camera lenses change focus at high altitudes? p. 235.

### PHYSIOLOGY

How much food value is there in seaweed? p. 233.

### POPULATION

How many Indians will register for military training? p. 236.

### PSYCHOLOGY

How does the principle of conditioning help to explain Hitler's influence over his people? p. 232.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

How is health holding up in England? p. 238.

What enemy of all mankind is likely to invade the United States? p. 230.

Why should the Park Service expand its facilities? p. 231.

### RADIO

How are schools going to get rid of static in their radio programs? p. 233.

### RADIO-MEDICINE

Why is medical treatment with high-frequency apparatus prohibited in Great Britain? p. 233.

A bird bath should be partly shaded: birds dislike bathing in water too hot from the sun.

Approximately 42,000 Indians in the United States are physically eligible for military service.

Most of the goat's milk produced in this country is by persons keeping less than eight goats.

A census of cottontail rabbits in three Missouri counties gave estimated returns of 2,777,000 bunnies.

Hittites of 1400 B.C. allowed 144 days for training a horse for military use, and the animal was put through a set regime of conditioning.

The United States is now reported to be growing bulbs of good quality for producing daffodils, freesias, Dutch iris and certain other flowers.

Records in two states, Connecticut and Ohio, indicate that 90% of men between 25 and 34 years of age have automobile driving licenses.

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 38 OCTOBER 12, 1940 No. 15

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one, at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

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Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the post-

office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have privilege of subscribing to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at \$3 a year.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Advertising rates on application. Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

SCIENCE SERVICE is the Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

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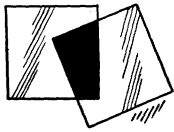
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Only Science News Letter readers have been invited to join this group. By October 1, more than half the memberships were taken. If you are interested we suggest that you send your application by AIR MAIL!

*Now*  
 you can look at,  
 try out, feel  
 --and OWN unusual

# Things of science

What will Members get in the first three monthly units of THINGS?



## OPTICS UNIT

Two areas of valuable optical film will go to members. With them you can perform experiments that will be easy for you

but which have baffled the world's finest minds for more than 250 years. We will describe *four* of these experiments which you can perform without buying any additional equipment. Then we'll explain *how* these films work.

## FINGERPRINT UNIT

Fingerprinting is in the news these days. One thinks of impressing an ink-smudged finger on paper—a messy business. Members will receive an *inkless fingerprinting outfit* with material good for many impressions. There will be a purse fingerprint card that may sometime be useful to you in cashing a check, and an official complete fingerprint record document which may be registered with the Government or kept in your safety deposit box. We'll tell you *how to classify* the arches, loops, whorls and composites in yours or any fingerprints.



## FABRICS UNIT

Members will receive a piece of *cloth spun from glass*; a tuft of fiber *made from milk* which feels like wool; a silk-like cloth made from *salt, coal, lime and air*; a sheet of paper that feels like cloth; and other new fabrics which are products of scientific experiment.

*Coming-* THINGS units on Taste, Plastics, Meteorites, Heredity, Odors, Archaeology, to name a few of the units on which the Staff of Science Service is now working.

### Message to Schools

The description of each unit of THINGS will be on bristol board, with a museum-style legend for use in a laboratory display cabinet if desired. The legend card will also contain on its lower portion, a clear, brief explanation of the contents of the unit.

FOR YEARS, we of the staff of Science Service, the non-profit institution for the dissemination of scientific knowledge, have been asked questions like these:

How can I get a sample of *this* new substance? or

What does *that* new product feel like? or

My son asked me about this discovery, and I want to make it more real to him—can you send me a *demonstration unit*?

In the past we had no way to meet these requests, but there have been so many of them that we have *now worked out a way*.

A new science group is being organized to receive THINGS of science. The membership of this group is by necessity limited during 1940 to 1,000 and restricted to the United States. To each member of this new group we will each month dispatch a *unit of scientific material*, unusual, intriguing, surprising. With each unit we will supply a brief, clear explanation of its contents.

Since this is a non-profit organization, THINGS will not attempt to make money, so the membership charge has been set at \$2. Every member will get the full measure of interest and curiosity-satisfying knowledge from his monthly unit of THINGS.

The membership period will reach from November, 1940 through May, 1941, and will entitle each member to *seven* monthly units of THINGS.

You are invited to become a member. We recommend that you send us the following application form *immediately* because when a total of 1,000 friends of science have joined, the roster will have to be closed.

## MAIL THIS APPLICATION

To: *Things*

2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

I hereby apply for membership in your new science group, and enclose \$2 for the seven units which are to be dispatched to me monthly, postage prepaid, from November 1940 through May 1941.

Signature .....

Mailing Address .....

City & State .....