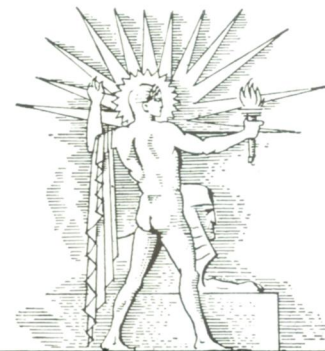
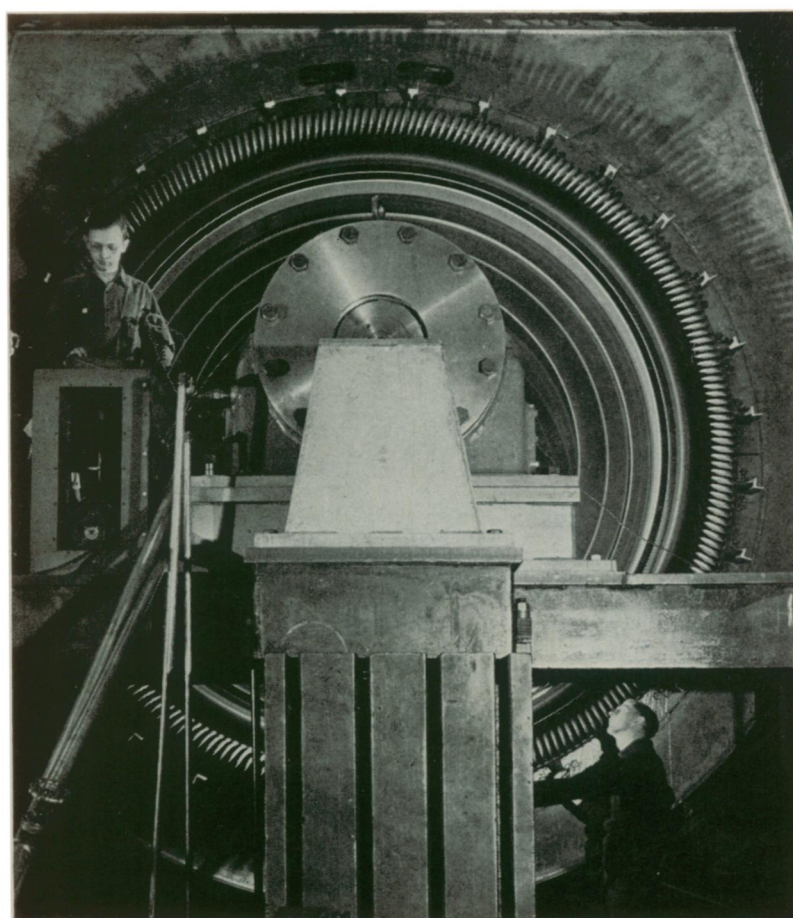


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



May 10, 1941

For Big Wind

See Page 297

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

# Do You Know?

*Shells* of most mollusks have three layers.

About 80% of Yugoslavia's people normally are engaged in *farming*.

A new industry in Finland is producing prefabricated wooden *houses*.

It is thought likely that *sardines* and *herrings* are the ocean's most numerous fish.

Reports from colonial days tell of New England *lobsters* measuring two feet from head to tail.

In China 2,000 years ago importance of a state was sometimes expressed in terms of the number of *chariots* it could muster.

One automobile manufacturer foresees that *plastic fenders* should absorb a blow ten times greater than steel without denting.

Waging air war on *grasshoppers*, Federal scientists are testing poison bait mixed with oil instead of water—as a weight saving device.

A new *g-lens camera* for American patrol bombing planes is designed to scout for enemy gun emplacements, barge collections, or concentrations of troops.

A scientist says that Great Britain could meet 7% of its peace-time petroleum needs by using as a substitute *methane gas* recovered from coal mines, oil borings, and sewage.

## 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.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

Where is search being made for the very first families of Virginia? p. 302.

### ASTRONOMY

How are the Cepheid variable stars now explained? p. 301.

How often does a star in the Milky Way explode? p. 299.

What causes the green line in the spectrum of the corona which has been attributed to "coronium"? p. 291.

### BIOLOGY

What test distinguishes between cancer and normal cells? p. 292.

### BOTANY

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### CHEMISTRY

What was the original use for Roman candles? p. 297.

### ETHNOLOGY

How do the Hopi Indians safeguard themselves during snake dance? p. 297.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

How will the new National Science Fund be administered? p. 295.

### GEOPHYSICS

How can an ordinary hypodermic syringe be used to measure the water vapor in the air? p. 294.

How can scientists measure the speed with which the core of the earth turns? p. 294.

When should you watch for northern lights? p. 294.

### MEDICINE

How can premature change of life be prevented? p. 296.

How has the earth itself provided a cure for dangerous germ infections? p. 292.

How many new physicians graduate from medical school each year? p. 296.

What body changes are caused by dilantin, epilepsy remedy? p. 296.

What new gold compound may result in a better treatment of rheumatism? p. 298.

### METALLURGY

What new process may aid in production of magnesium? p. 302.

### ORNITHOLOGY

How many birds are there in the United States? p. 303.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What common seasoning prevents deterioration of the pituitary gland? p. 296.

What would a baby born without thyroid tissue look like? p. 297.

### PSYCHOLOGY

What need in man is overlooked by propagandists? p. 298.

### RADIO

How fast do radio waves travel? p. 295.

New *airline* service brings Fairbanks, Alaska, within two days' journey from New York.

A possible substitute for Chinese tung oil is *kukui* oil, extracted from a nut growing in Hawaii.

The German government, by one estimate, is spending about 28 billion dollars a year—72% of the national income—on *war*.

One severe storm last November caused turkey growers in this country to lose more than a million *turkeys*.

If needed at any cost, *tin* could be recovered from America's used cans—as much as 12,000 tons a year.

Hunter College, New York, is giving an evening course in *cryptography*, for study of secret writing, codes, and ciphers.

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