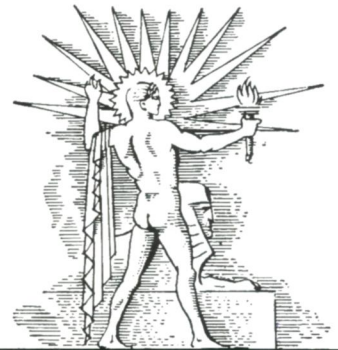


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



July 12, 1941

“Jug-o’-Rum!”

See Page 24

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Otters enjoy sliding down steep banks into the water.

Ninety-nine per cent. of the world's people use *cotton*.

An optical company says that it takes half as long to build a *range finder* as a battleship.

The world's purest native *gold* is so-called sponge gold from mines of Kalgoorlie, Australia.

In making a *muskrat* coat several thousand pelts may be examined before about 75 are chosen for matched color and quality.

The oldest record of physicians blaming bodily ailments on *bad teeth* is in an Assyrian manuscript of the seventh century B. C.

Finger-prints of two orang-utans and a chimpanzee were recently taken at the Philadelphia Zoo, and showed the same whorls and arches as human prints.

A process for making an improved "richly flavored" *prune* syrup to be diluted for use in drinks and foods has been developed at the University of California.

The *moon's* temperature, an astronomer has reported, can fall violently from 101 degrees Centigrade to minus 117 degrees during an eclipse because the moon has no heat stored in soil or atmosphere to draw on.

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 much of England's civil aviation service is being maintained? p. 22.

ARCHAEOLOGY

What archaeological work was done during the Battle of Britain? p. 25.

ASTRONOMY

Why is life impossible on Venus? p. 26.

CHEMISTRY

What proportion of your brain is water? p. 27.

ENGINEERING

What does "psi" mean? p. 29.

ENTOMOLOGY

What insect sprays are more effective as fumigants? p. 25.

What is the "death ray" that kills cockroaches? p. 24.

GENERAL SCIENCE

What new Government office will coordinate defense scientific work? p. 19.

GENETICS

What chemical acts like colchicine in speeding evolutionary changes in plants? p. 25.

HYDROLOGY

What does it cost you to run the Weather Bureau? p. 21.

Why does snow melt during a rain? p. 21.

MARINE BIOLOGY

What new emergency food can England take from the sea? p. 30.

MEDICINE

How may the infantile paralysis virus get to the brain? p. 20.

What gas is likely to be used in this war? p. 23.

PHYSICS—AERONAUTICS

What happens when a bullet hits bullet-proof glass? p. 23.

PHYSIOLOGY

How fast can the thyroid gland produce its hormone? p. 19.

What separates the surface of the body from the surrounding air? p. 24.

PSYCHOLOGY

How can you measure a rat's time sense? p. 20.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How far north in the United States has endemic typhus fever been reported? p. 24.

The *wild turkey*, which supplied meat for America's pioneers, was a small turkey.

Tung oil is now obtained commercially by mechanical pressing of the kernel; but greater yields may result from extracting the oil, now tested experimentally.

If cards in a cooking recipe file are coated with white *shellac*, stains can be easily wiped off with a damp cloth.

Vitamins are reported to have become a \$100,000,000 business.

Cotton insulation for houses is effective in Alaska and in the tropics, government scientists report.

New York Aquarium staff workers recently put a four-foot-long *torpedo ray* into a salt water tank, but not until five men got momentarily paralyzing electric shocks.

Malaria and relapsing *fever*, considered tropical diseases in China, have been carried by refugees and soldiers as far north as Shansi province, about 40 degrees latitude.

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