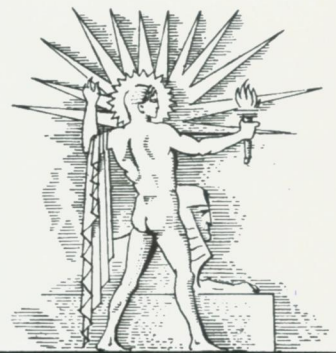


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



December 27, 1941

For Better X-Rays

See Page 403

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Soldiers in ancient Greece used sponges to pad their *helmets*.

New Army equipment enables the Quartermaster Corps to *re-refine* used crank-case oil, removing water, gasoline and grime.

An exhibit of exotic birds at Chicago's Field Museum includes a *motmot*, Australian tawny frogmouth, and crested oropendola.

In a large-scale *diet* experiment, 1,000 volunteer aircraft workers in California are getting an extra meal a day rich in vitamins and minerals.

Chemists have evolved a speed-up continuous method of *bleaching* fabrics with hydrogen peroxide that requires only two hours and ten minutes.

Firn snow gets its name from an old German word meaning "from last year," but it may be years old on mountain tops, and it is rock-hard.

The picturesque little fish called *sea horses* really "talk"—at least they make faint snapping noises, which seem to have communication value.

The deep blue of the *Sargasso Sea* in the Atlantic Ocean is attributed to great depth of water, lack of turbidity, and scarcity of microscopic marine life.

A meteorologist says that three kinds of *ice* affect aircraft operation: glaze or clear ice; rime, which is opaque and granular; and frost, which is feathery and snowlike.

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.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

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ZOOLOGY

What air raid precautions are being taken by the National Zoological Park? p. 403.

To save aluminum for defense needs, identifying *leg bands* worn by hens will be made of plastic.

Army *parachutes* are retired from active duty after seven years, but may still be used in dropping supplies.

The Department of Agriculture is now on the air with *television* to teach housewives how to buy effectively.

Young *oil birds* of northern South America and Trinidad are so fat that Indians melt out the oil for butter.

Anti-corrosive paint is now sprayed on wet or debris-covered machinery in England after a blitz, to prevent rusting.

More *fluorspar* is being required in manufacture of steel, leaving less for insecticides, pest exterminators report.

Needles of the long-leaf southern pine are often 18 inches long.

If fish had no *fins*, the weight of their backs would make them turn over.

A Seminole Indian woman may wear 25 pounds of *beads* in the chains that encircle her neck from chin to shoulders.

Light, protective *armored clothing* is one item on a recent War Department list of inventions that would be welcome.

Many cows, horses, and dogs get better breaks in the *food* they eat than families that own them, says a Cornell agriculturist.

Canadian scientists have evolved a new method of lengthening the life of *fish nets*, which cost from about \$100 to \$10,000.

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