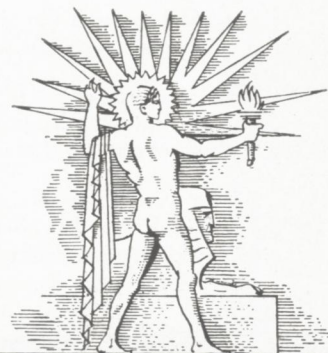
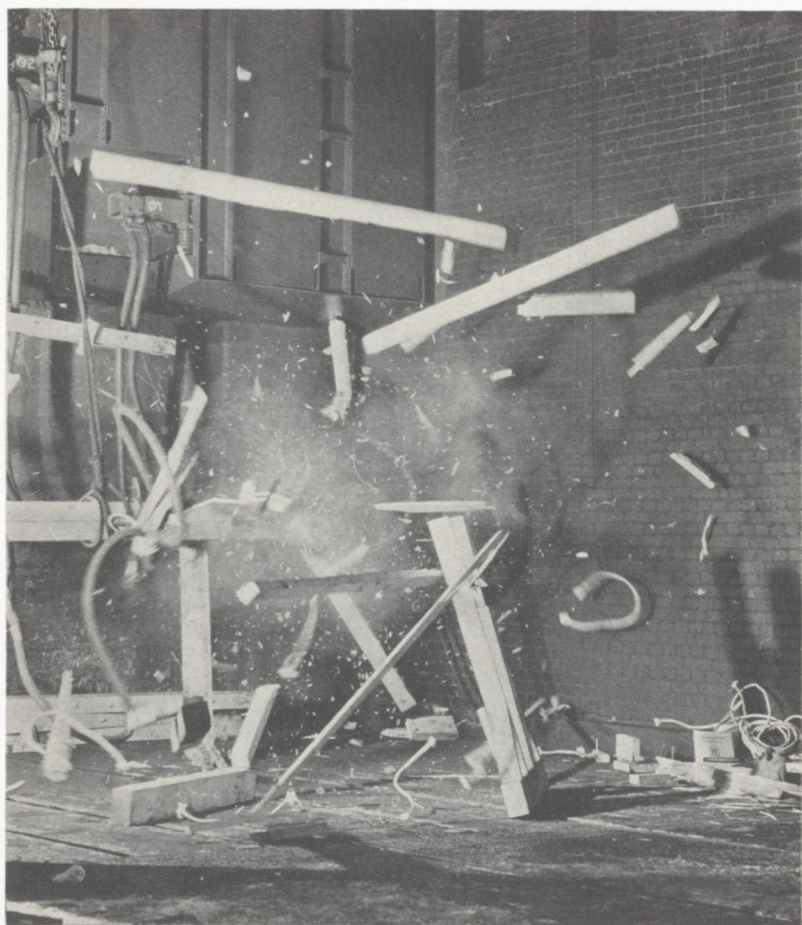


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



January 31, 1942

Super-Power Protection

See Page 68

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?

An egg is two-thirds water.

Nylon is an efficient electric insulator.

Fabrics can now be made from cow's milk.

Fish eyes are a delicacy among West Indies natives.

Sea-butterflies are sea snails that swim with wing-like fins.

Perfumes remain fresher on a warm skin than on clothing.

Some cities in the United States have lending "libraries" of toys.

Army motorcycles are being provided with *blackout* lighting equipment.

A new perfume has been christened "gingham", to be used with gowns of that material.

Oysters are good food the year 'round, according to Dr. Thurlow Nelson, New Jersey State biologist.

After taking off, a flea turns and travels *tail-first* through the air, thus placing the heavy end foremost.

The stomach of a tiger *shark* was found to contain 7 leggings, 47 buttons, 3 leather belts and 9 shoes.

There were 13 stars and 13 stripes in our original *flag*; by coincidence, 13 operations are now necessary in the manufacture of the once handmade stars and stripes.

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

What new invention aids the blind landing of airplanes? p. 72.

AERONAUTICS—PSYCHOLOGY

How can you train yourself to identify airplanes? p. 70.

ASTRONOMY

What planet will be brightest in the February skies? p. 74.

CHEMISTRY

How does rust damage inner tubes? p. 72.

ENGINEERING

How can our great power lines be protected against sabotage? p. 68.

What savings are provided for in the "Victory" bicycles? p. 72.

MEDICINE

How can peritonitis be cured? p. 69.

What new method was used to locate speedily metal fragments in the wounds of men injured at Pearl Harbor? p. 67.

PHYSICS

How can gasoline tanks be made "invisible" from the air? p. 72.

What new device has been invented for making charcoal for gas masks? p. 67.

PHYSIOLOGY

What is the status of the vitamins-for-gray-hair research? p. 68.

What psychological barrier can keep a woman from becoming a mother? p. 73.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Where can you take a college course in outdoor living? p. 73.

RESOURCES

Where in the United States can 25,000 tons of wild rubber be harvested? p. 69.

Tangerines are a source of vitamin A.

Rayon has replaced cotton cords in airliner tires.

Emotional upsets use energy as rapidly as *hard work*.

The *blue crab* of Chesapeake Bay lays 1,750,000 eggs at a time.

This country has more high-speed passenger *trains* than any other.

A year's *oyster* harvest in the United States has a food value equal to 400,000 dressed steers.

Architects predict cities of the future will be protected against air raids with public *shelters* built as dormitories.

Sugar maple and oak have about the greatest *heating value* as fuel woods.

Popcorn with a louder "pop" has been developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Purdue University.

The *Nassau grouper*, a food fish found in West Indian waters, can change colors like a chameleon—at least eight are recorded.

A forest ranger reported he kept *deer* out of his vegetable garden with moth balls—the odor was too strong for sensitive nostrils.

Mindanao Deep, west of the Philippine island of the same name, is the deepest known depression in the ocean—almost 6½ miles.

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YOU TASTE→
SMELL→
FEEL→
SEE→

Question Box

What kind of taste buds have you inherited?
What are the new materials that keep us and our surroundings clean?
What useful and inexpensive chemicals are now used to sweeten and perfume our world?
What interesting products of food dehydration are important in war and defense?
What sort of soils make America the fertile country it is?
How can important mathematical principles be illustrated by constructional materials?
What blackout problems can be solved by fluorescence?
What indicators are useful in medicine and chemistry?
What industrial roles are now being taken over by a common liquid food?
What has a double refraction material got to do with war and defense?
What new material has created a revolution in merchandising?

SCIENCE SURPRISES...

WHO are the Members of this group?

80% of the members receiving THINGS of science during this year were members last year.

INDIVIDUALS

One in every nine members is a doctor. Others are husbands and wives jointly, engineers, students, army and navy officers, psychiatrists, bankers, ministers, inventors, newspaper men, local, state and national government officials, and many other individuals whose line of work we do not know.

INSTITUTIONS

Organizations such as hospitals, military and civil, scientific associations, museums, public libraries, laboratories, institutions for the blind and deaf, are members.

BUSINESSES

Business executives are members in great numbers. Some of the materials they produce are: Armament, explosives, machinery, tools, communications, lumber, food products, airplanes and parts, chemicals, oil refining, electrical equipment, telephones, bags, distilling, sugar products, asbestos, chain and cable, creosote, crayon, paper, printing machinery, abrasives, steel, medicines, brewing, mining, textiles, dairy products, die-casting. They were members last year. They are members this year.

SCHOOLS

One in every four members is a high school, parochial school, military school, industrial or technical school, a college or university, public or private. Many members are teachers in such schools.

MESSAGE TO SCHOOLS

In addition to a clear explanation of the material in each unit of THINGS, we supply a museum-style legend card of bristol board for use in a laboratory display cabinet.

A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, "THINGS of science" was born. It was and is operated without profit for a group of friends of science. Each month the members receive a packet, a big envelope, or a mailing carton of scientific objects—unusual, intriguing, surprising, informative.

These materials and the explanations which accompany them enable the members each month to *see, feel, smell, taste*, and otherwise *experiment with* actual objects which have come from the research and continuous questing of the brains of America and the world.

In the QUESTION BOX at the top of this page are some 1942 questions. THINGS of science that will answer questions like these and many others are now being assembled by the Staff. It is planned in forthcoming months to issue units that will contain science objects, explanations, experiment outlines and descriptive cards on such subjects as TASTE, DETERGENTS, SYNTHETIC FLAVORS, CONCENTRATED FOODS, SOILS, MATHEMATICS, FLUORESCENCE, INDICATORS, MILK PRODUCTS, CALCITE, TRANSPARENT PACKAGING, for example.

The receipt of a unit of THINGS of science each month will help make your reading and conversation on science subjects more vivid. There is no better way to understanding than through the senses. Membership in THINGS of science offers you this opportunity.

See in the column at the left what we discovered when we examined the list of people who *were* members in 1941 and *renewed their memberships for 1942*. They found THINGS of science unusual, intriguing, surprising, informative. So they are continuing their membership for another year.

This organization is sponsored by Science Service, the non-profit institution for the dissemination of scientific knowledge. You may enter your membership for six months for \$2, or for one year for \$4, by sending in the Application Coupon below.

It is difficult for the Staff to get together, under present conditions of scarcity, many of the objects of science the members receive. But the Staff has been forehanded. Members enrolling now can be assured of receiving their monthly units of THINGS of science each month as long ahead as one year.

We invite you therefore to become a member of this unusual group while you can, sending in your Application coupon now.

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I hereby apply for Membership in the science group organized to receive THINGS of science, one unit to be dispatched to me each month, all postage charges prepaid,
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