

## Do You Know?

*Alfalfa* contains large quantities of vitamin K.

*Birds* have a higher body temperature than other living organisms.

Seven minutes is the longest possible time for an *eclipse* of the sun.

*Pork* products represent about 10% of the food dollar spent by American consumers.

Top-soil from skeet-shooting grounds in several states is being worked, to reclaim *lead shot*.

*Blood plasma* transfusions can be given directly on the battlefields, and blood typing or matching is unnecessary.

If *perspiration* stains have affected the color of a garment, fumes from an ammonia bottle may restore the original shade.

*Lawns* should be cut not closer than 1½ inches since grass, like all other plants, depends on its leaves for food to produce roots.

The insecticide *hellebore*, commonly supposed to be harmless, is actually poisonous, but in small quantities it becomes harmless when exposed to weather for ten days or so.

A recently patented "*scriptoscope*" projects writing or diagrams, made on cellophane, from a desk-top lens onto a screen, enabling a teacher to illustrate his lecture while seated at his desk.

## Question Box

### Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

#### AERONAUTICS

How are transparent plastics tested for marring? p. 14.  
What distinction is offered by the Army Air Force for building model airplanes? p. 8.

#### ASTRONOMY

Of what elements are the planetary nebulae made? p. 10.  
What light element has been found in the coolest stars? p. 9.

#### BOTANY

Lack of what chemical causes wild growth in plant cells? p. 10.

#### CHEMISTRY

How is ammonia made from petroleum? p. 6.  
What are used to plug the holes in a sinking lifeboat and keep it afloat? p. 8.  
Why is it difficult to predict the sweetening effect of sugar substitutes? p. 8.

#### ENGINEERING

What electrical machinery is required to operate the wind tunnel at Wright Field? p. 7.

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.

#### MEDICINE

What is one of the most powerful antibacterial substances known? p. 11.  
What medical journal now publishes a Spanish edition? p. 8.  
What operation halted the growth of a cancer and relieved the pain? p. 4.  
What proportion of meningitis patients are being saved with sulfa drugs? p. 9.  
Which is most likely to affect hardening of the arteries, stair climbing or use of alcohol? p. 5.  
Who are making a serum for treating Rocky Mountain spotted fever? p. 4.

#### NUTRITION

What changes have taken place in American diet since 1909? p. 4.

#### PHYSICS

How can plastic camera or spectacle lenses be protected against scratching? p. 9.  
Is the weight of a hive of bees lightened when the bees fly around within it? p. 9.

#### PHYSICS—ENGINEERING

How can a flash of lightning be analyzed and pictured? p. 3.  
What is being used to replace Swiss sapphire in electrical instruments? p. 3.

#### GENERAL SCIENCE

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