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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • SEPTEMBER 12, 1942

Nursery for War Birds

See Page 168

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Do You Know?

Thiamin or vitamin B_1 was first synthesized in 1936.

Military *surgeons* were first given rank as officers in 1847.

By evaporation, an average *oak* loses about 187 gallons of water per day.

All known *war gases* contain one of the halogens such as chlorine, bromine, iodine.

The *cowbird,* though it builds no nest, is related to the Baltimore oriole which is a famous weaver.

The *Aleutian Islands* are treeless, fog-bound, volcano-studded mountain tops protruding from the sea.

At least 26 species of wild animals in the United States have been proved capable of being infected with *plague* organisms.

Upholstery made from a new *plastic fabric* is non-porous, hence resistant to food stains, dirt, rain, oils, greases, and even chewing gum.

The United States is the leading *salt* producer of the world, with 28% of a total estimated at approximately 35,000,000 metric tons annually.

The value of *gold* produced from Alaskan mines in 1940 marked an all-time high, surpassing even that of the boom days of the great Alaska gold rushes.

Question Box

Page numbers of 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.*

England's *fishery products* have dropped to 20% of the prewar catch.

The *otter* is such a good swimmer it can overtake almost any fish in the water.

Bacteria in the intestine are able to form nicotinic acid, vitamin K, riboflavin, and other vitamins.

Male *gnats* usually refrain from attempting to draw blood, and confine their diet to the nectar of flowers.

Nearly $500,000 worth of *mink* skins are exported from Alaska each year.

Corn is the largest crop of the United States, with forest products a close second.

Plants that capture insects can manufacture their own food when they fail to catch enough animal food.

Glass bearings no bigger than the head of a pin are replacing imported synthetic jewels for industrial jobs.

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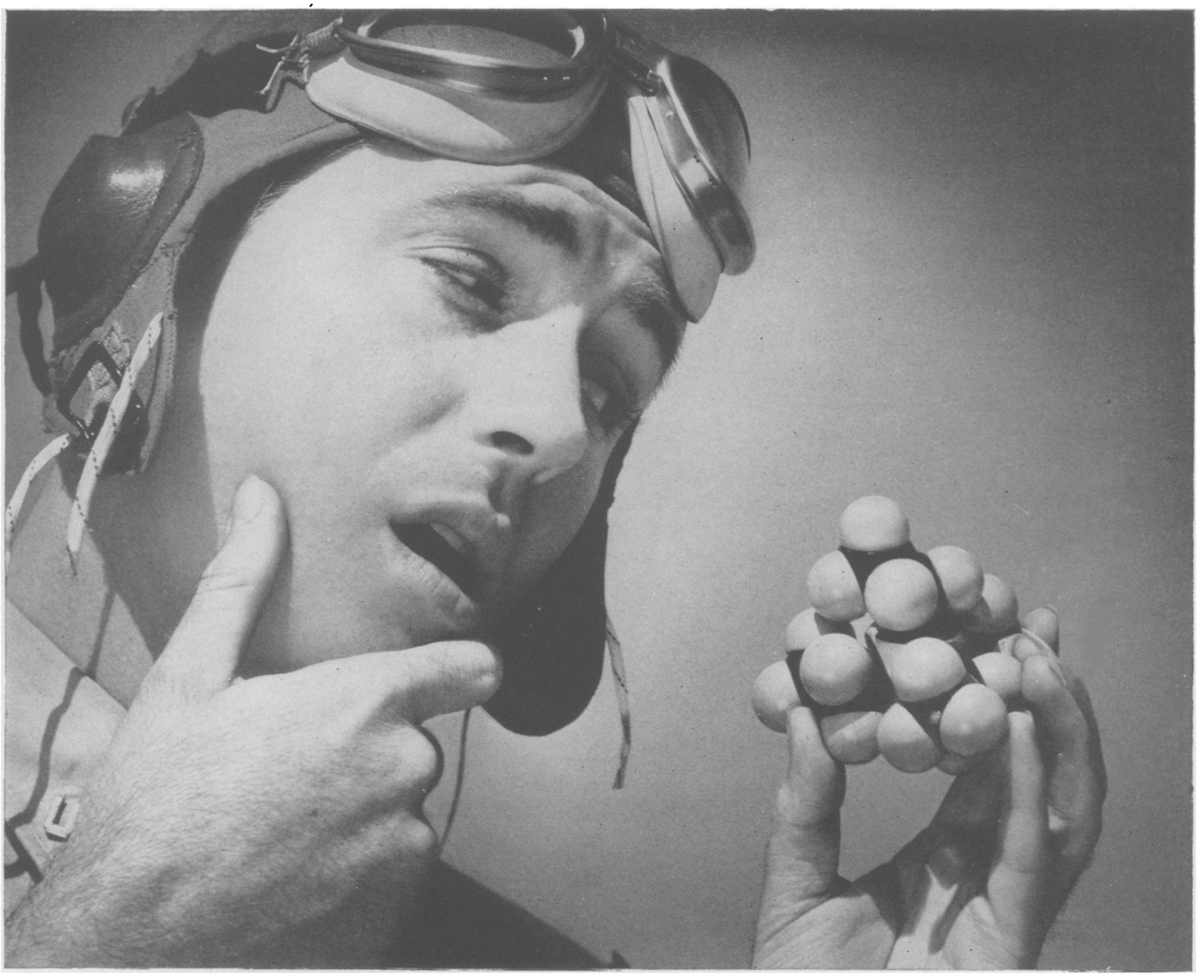

"Do you mean to say I have these things in my gas tank?"

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