

15¢



SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • NOVEMBER 7, 1942



To Be Prevented

See Page 298

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Quinine was first discovered in the Americas 300 years ago, in the bitter bark of cinchona tree of the Andes.

Phosphorescent paint applied to the walls of a darkened blackout room can provide enough glow to guide a person's movements.

The *South Pacific* is so large that it could easily hold within its shores the South Atlantic, plus the continents of Africa and South America.

A *submarine* takes in water to dive, blows it out again to rise, just as a fish regulates the gas content of its "swim bladder" for the same purpose.

Woods that burn well while still green include beech, Douglas fir, red and white spruces, tamarack, lodgepole and red pines, black locust, and ashes (except black ash).

The *Sam Browne belt*, with its shoulder strap for carrying equipment, was invented by British General Browne after he had lost an arm in the Indian Mutiny of '57.

One way to protect *potatoes* against infection and rotting is to postpone digging until the vines are dead, and until the blight spores on the old tops and on the ground are dead.

The name *Blimp* comes from British experiments with lighter-than-air craft during the last war, when their first non-rigid model, called "A-limp," proved less satisfactory than the second, or "B-limp."

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

AERONAUTICS

How was a 40-year-old aeronautical dispute settled? p. 292.

AGRICULTURE

How can plowing be done without disturbing the stubble that holds the soil? p. 298.

BACTERIOLOGY

What forms of life eat rubber? p. 296.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How are German scientific works to be made available in America? p. 300.

INVENTION

How can an enemy be prevented from jamming wireless messages? p. 297.

Of what material can slide fasteners be made to replace metal? p. 301.

What living organism can be used to locate oil deposits? p. 297.

MEDICINE

How long a work week is recommended for women in industry? p. 293.

How many different types of germs have been isolated from scarlet fever patients? p. 291.

How severely does infantile paralysis usually cripple its victims? p. 291.

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.

What is the cause of a peculiar disease occurring among workers in cotton mills? p. 298.

NUTRITION

How can the available vitamin content of fresh yeast be increased? p. 297.

How does German nutrition compare with conditions during the first world war? p. 294.

How has war affected the British diet? p. 294.

PHYSICS

Can Newton's Law be considered universal in its application? p. 295.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

What new use has been found for chemical cousins of aspirin? p. 296.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What action is being taken by the Public Health Service to wipe out venereal disease? p. 300.

What new method of emergency sewage disposal has been developed? p. 296.

What sanitary measure may help solve the infantile paralysis problem? p. 301.

SAFETY

What hazard results when city dwellers go to work on farms? p. 303.

When *plants* give off quantities of water through their leaves, they avoid sunburn.

Normally America is the world's largest consumer of *tin*, using half the world's supply in 1941.

Thousands of ducks and geese die each year throughout the United States from lead poisoning acquired by eating *lead shot*.

Mexico is now supplying the *vanilla* which we used to import from Madagascar.

The *American eagle* has adapted itself to the treeless Aleutians by building its nest on the ground.

The army has found that *cotton* is one of the warmest materials for Arctic wear, providing insulation and wind and water resistance.

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 42 NOVEMBER 7, 1942 No. 19

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C. NOrth 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years, \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one, at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

Copyright, 1942, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.
New York office: 310 Fifth Avenue, CHickering 4-4565.

Entered as second class matter at the post-

office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

The Science Observer, established by the American Institute of the City of New York, is now included in the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N. Y. C., PENnsylvania 6-5566; and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, STate 4439.

SCIENCE SERVICE is the Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois; Edwin G. Conklin, American Philosophical Society; J. McKeen Cattell, Editor, Science. **Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences:** R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology; Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observa-

tory; W. H. Lewis, Wistar Institute. **Nominated by the National Research Council:** Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Harrison E. Howe, Editor, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. **Nominated by the Journalistic Profession:** O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism; A. H. Kirchofer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Executive Editor, Sun Papers. **Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate:** Frank R. Ford, Evansville Press; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Harry L. Smithton, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Officers—Honorary President: William E. Ritter, President; Edwin G. Conklin, Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee; Harlow Shapley, Treasurer; O. W. Riegel, Secretary; Watson Davis.

Staff—Director: Watson Davis. **Writers:** Frank Thone, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Morton Mott-Smith, Glenn Sonnedecker. **Science Clubs of America:** Joseph H. Kraus, Margaret E. Patterson. **Photography:** Fremont Davis. **Librarian:** Page Secrest. **Business Manager:** Alvin C. Stewart. **Sales and Advertising:** Hallie Jenkins. Correspondents in principal cities and centers of research.