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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • NOVEMBER 28, 1942



Nova Puppis

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A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

Last year's *death rate* was the lowest in our history.

*Burma*, the size of Texas, has double the population of that state.

*Boric acid* can be made by the interaction of sulfuric acid and borax.

White *potatoes* contain about 78% water and only 11% to 21% starch.

It was not until 1909 that the body louse was discovered to be the carrier of *typhus*.

A normal person can become temporarily *colorblind* by means of hypnotic suggestion.

The *cattle grub* which destroys 10% of our beef can be controlled by rubbing the animal's back with rotenone dust.

Due to a shortage of imported wheat, Venezuelans are now eating bread made partly from *banana flour*—and liking it.

The only venomous *snakes* in the United States are the rattlesnake, copperhead, coral snake and water moccasin.

North American Indians had only two domesticated animals, the dog and the *turkey*; the latter used mostly for its feathers.

*Cabbages* should be stored upside down so that moisture will not rot them.

Effective pasteurization of all milk could wipe out *undulant fever* in our rural areas.

## Question Box

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#### ANTHROPOLOGY

To what people is the Filipino related? p. 344.

#### ASTRONOMY

By what familiar constellation can you locate the brightest star in the sky? p. 346.

How much did Nova Puppis increase in brightness? p. 340.

What evidence have we that a planet exists outside our solar system? p. 339.

Who has reported finding a new comet? p. 339.

Who may have made the first photograph of the Nova Puppis? p. 340.

#### CHEMISTRY

Who has discovered the chemical structure of biotin? p. 345.

#### ENTOMOLOGY-PUBLIC HEALTH

What is one of the most menacing of aerial enemies of our troops? p. 351.

#### ETHNOLOGY

What happened when white men went to the South Pacific islands? p. 350.

#### MEDICINE

What test has resulted in improvement of the operation for sciatica? p. 345.

What war use has the Sister Kenny treatment for infantile paralysis? p. 341.

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#### NUTRITION

What are some of the advantages of dehydrated vegetables? p. 343.

What unfamiliar fish are recommended for eating? p. 345.

#### PALEONTOLOGY

What is Xenocranium? p. 347.

Where was the earliest saber-tooth found? p. 339.

#### PHARMACOLOGY

Where has a more effective digitalis been found? p. 345.

#### PLANT PATHOLOGY

How does dodder transmit plant disease? p. 339.

#### PSYCHIATRY

What sometimes happens when a general refuses to rest? p. 344.

#### PSYCHOLOGY—PHYSICS

Why does the partially color-blind person sometimes have an advantage in detecting camouflage? p. 342.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

How does your place of residence affect your teeth? p. 341.

Where are tuberculosis deaths increasing? p. 348.

#### RESOURCES

What vitamin is found in persimmon leaves? p. 350.

*Malaria* is not confined to the tropics; in 1937 there were 4,000,000 cases in the United States.

An incidental annoyance during the British blitz was the invasion of *flies*, attracted by bombed food stores.

The germs of *tularemia*, dread rabbit fever, are particularly dangerous, since they can penetrate even healthy human skin.

South American *yerba maté* is rich in caffeine and chlorophyll, and has some vitamin content.

No matter where *trout* are, they have a universal tendency to seek larger bodies of water as they grow.

The Western Hemisphere produces half the world's annual *cotton* crop, four-fifths of which is grown in the United States.

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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There are people you know—adults or younger people—who share your interest in science. Who are they? The suggestions at the left may assist you in thinking of them.

Wouldn't one or more of them appreciate a science gift from you this year? It could be a subscription to Science News Letter or a membership to receive "THINGS of science." These are repeating gifts that cause people to think of the giver again and again throughout the year.

Science News Letter subscriptions are \$3.50 each when two or more annual subscriptions are ordered at one time. (One of these may be an extension of your own subscription.) A single 1-year subscription is \$5.00.

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## Who would enjoy these gifts?

1. A year of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER would be enjoyed by any man or woman who wishes ideas or scientific facts to liven and point up the conversation; a *business executive* with war-born problems; a *teacher* who likes new ideas to infiltrate to students; a *parent* who has a mentally acquisitive child; a *speaker* who can turn scientific knowledge into forceful argument toward intensified war effort; an *engineer* who can match it with something else he knows and go ahead with a project; *scientists and professional men and women* of all sorts who soak up ideas and relate them to their work.

2. A year of "THINGS of science" would be enjoyed by an adult, or younger person who likes to DO things, and enjoys thinking and learning at the same time. Someone who likes to EXPERIMENT. Someone who is interested in NEW IDEAS, NEW INFORMATION, someone who always wants to FIND OUT.