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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • DECEMBER 5, 1942



Brewing Trouble for the Axis

See Page 364

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Mistletoe is a parasite which may kill its host tree.

The "long-lived" *elephant* actually has a shorter life than man.

Fourteen countries of the Western Hemisphere produce *coffee*.

Too little air in *tires* can make them wear out 50% to 70% faster.

Seventy percent of all occupational diseases are said to be *skin disorders*.

The word "*spinster*" is derived from the spinner of a single thread, while the word "*wife*" is related to "*weave*," using two or more threads.

The Government is investigating a mineral deposit in New Mexico which may prove to be a new source of the vital war metal *beryllium*.

The oil industry can save 46% of the *steel* necessary in drilling oil wells by adopting a new method which draws oil from two or more levels through a single well.

Fats and fatty oils, vital to man's diet, were consumed by Americans in 1940 at the rate of about 56 pounds per person, with another 28 pounds used in soap, paints, lubricants, etc.

Present-day *soil erosion* in South Dakota may have begun before the Ice Age, judging by the large percentage of young mammalian fossils found there recently, which presumably died of thirst

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

AGRICULTURE

How can farmers now help to insure that our 1962 Army will have sound teeth and strong bones? p. 356.

ASTRONOMY

Which is the brightest star? p. 360.

BIOLOGY

What new awards honor new knowledge on the growth of cells? p. 366.

CHEMISTRY

How much rubber is saved in the new Army raincoat? p. 361.

What home-grown product may be used to substitute for tapioca? p. 358.

CONSERVATION

What Christmas greens should you refrain from buying? p. 367.

ENGINEERING

Why are welded ships superior in wartime? p. 364.

GENERAL SCIENCE

What scientific meeting was recently canceled? p. 357.

GEOLOGY

Who has been honored with the Penrose medal? p. 358.

INVENTION

Of what importance is a "robot sniffer" on an airplane? p. 364.

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.

LANGUAGE

Where can new information be found on the North American Indian languages? p. 359.

MEDICINE

What assistance is needed by the employed wives of soldiers? p. 360.

What chemical has been used successfully in treating African sleeping sickness? p. 355.

What illness may humans possibly catch from cats? p. 355.

What new dressing will prevent infection of burns? p. 357.

Why are your hands not important in spreading influenza germs? p. 360.

NUTRITION

What are some of the most important uses for soybeans? p. 362.

PALEONTOLOGY

For how long have grapes grown in the United States? p. 361.

PHOTOGRAPHY

How can scratches be removed from films? p. 355.

PHYSICS

How many names are needed to describe the colors in everyday use? p. 359.

Ordinary *hemp sacks*, treated with a toxic preservative to prevent moulding, are used as Army sandbags.

Salt is one of the five most important raw materials in the world, ranking with coal, limestone, petroleum and sulfur.

One of the newest Diesel type engines weighs only 1.8 pounds per horsepower, as compared to 100 pounds for early models.

The spread of *tuberculosis* in Sweden is being investigated by taking X-rays of every Swedish citizen.

"Felt" hats made of *redwood* bark are nothing new; North Pacific Indians wove their headdresses of cedar-bark fiber.

Cellulose hoods, which sealed peacetime bottles, are now used to protect open pipes and gas lines during war production.

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