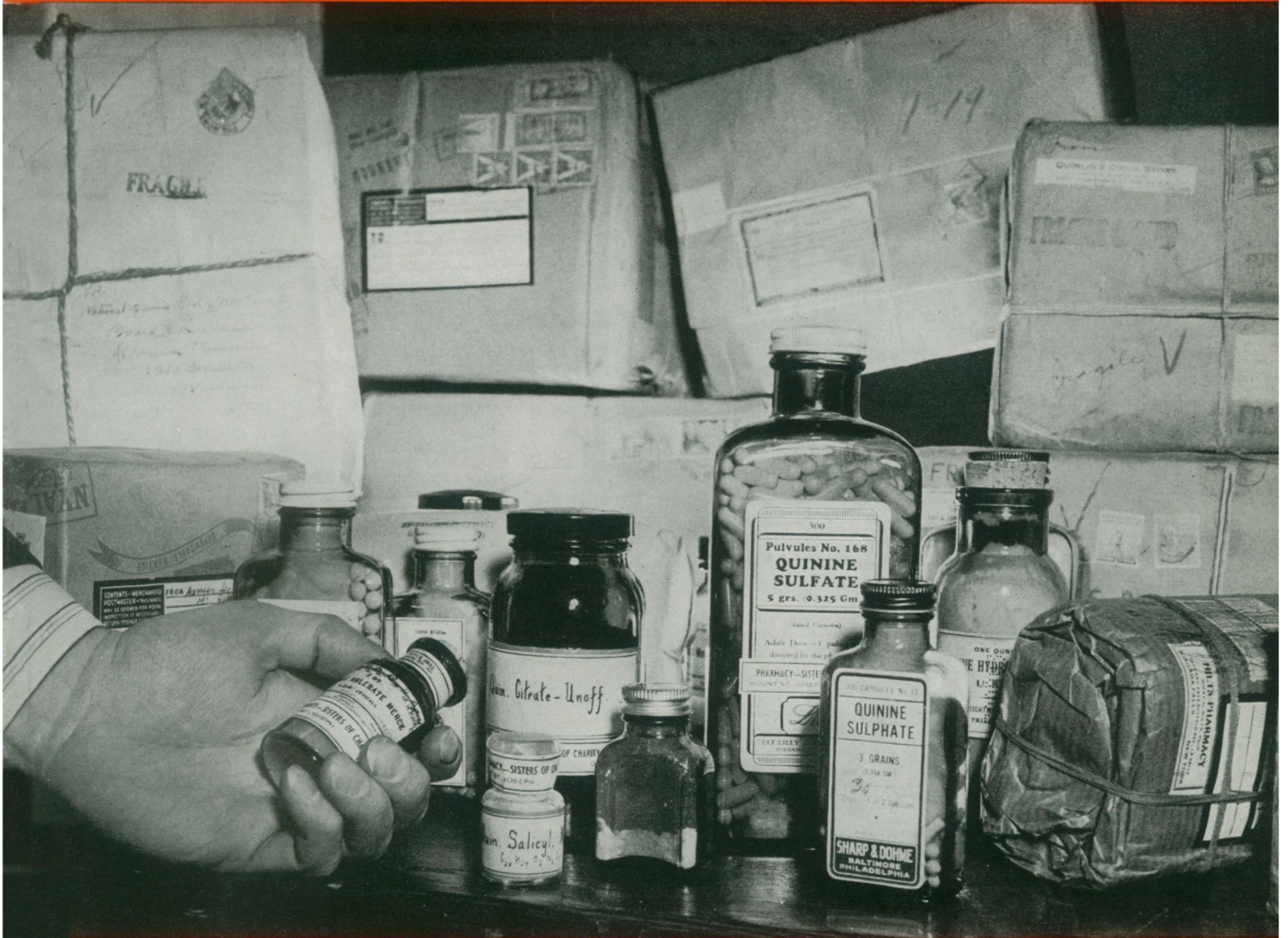


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • JANUARY 30, 1943



Munitions for War

See Page 77

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

The longitudinal shrinkage of *wood* is only about 1/100 of the transverse shrinkage.

To move one *infantry division* with equipment requires approximately 1,350 railroad cars, or 65 special trains.

Starfish, worst enemy of oysters and oyster men, now face destruction from a new "depth weapon," a machine for spreading quicklime on oyster beds.

Grindstones cut from sandstone blocks are still in demand because they are better for certain industrial purposes than any of the new artificial abrasive grinding wheels.

Mexico, a large exporter of the *cocoa bean*, will no longer have to import the finished products, cocoa and cocoa butter; Mexico City now has a modern cocoa-processing plant.

The percentage of rubber obtained from *guayule* increases with the age of the plant, from 4% at one year up to 17% to 22% when the plant is between five and seven years old.

Heat is lost through the outside walls of a house by all three methods of heat transference; radiation through space, conduction through solids, and gravity circulation of heated air.

Hold this page at right angles to your line of vision to avoid *eyestrain*; the visibility of print is reduced as much as 70% when it is placed flat on a desk and read from an upright position.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

AGRICULTURE

How did the Russians get black cotton without dyeing it? p. 72.

What crops should be increased to give us more food? p. 71.

What is the yield of Cayuga soy beans? p. 73.

ASTRONOMY

On what date will you be able to see an eclipse of the moon? p. 74.

ENGINEERING

With what device can ice cubes be made to eject themselves? p. 73.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How has the Smithsonian Institution converted to war? p. 78.

Who are the science talent search winners? p. 68.

INVENTION

How can the "Tommy" sub-machine gun be adapted to use inexpensive ammunition? p. 79.

MEDICINE

What group now barred from employment would qualify for jobs? p. 68.

What new anesthesia is taking the pain out of childbirth? p. 67.

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 saved the life of a patient dying of blood poisoning? p. 76.

How does a change of breathing rhythm sometimes indicate impending death? p. 79.

How is the Commonwealth Fund contributing to war medicine? p. 72.

On what fronts are medical scientists battling infantile paralysis? p. 70.

METALLURGY

How can a tiny mirror be used to learn about war metals? p. 72.

PHARMACY

How are the drug stores of the nation contributing to the war effort? p. 77.

PHYSICS

How can you keep printing paper from curling? p. 72.

PHYSIOLOGY

How many biotin vitamins have been discovered? p. 76.

PUBLIC HEALTH

To what extent is meningitis increasing? p. 73.

What precautions are necessary if you use rabbit meat? p. 67.

Peanut oil, now being used for cooking and salad oil, is used industrially in shaving lotions, cosmetics, soaps, dyes and axle grease; and medically, among other uses, in massage for infantile paralysis victims.

Nature has provided an ideal for military clothing experts to aim at, in endowing the *duck* with an all-weather protective covering, of ideal warmth yet light weight, thoroughly ventilated and impervious to moisture.

American Indians have sent more than 11,000 men to war, out of a population of less than 400,000, creating a manpower shortage on reservations.

The Russian rubber dandelion, *kok-saghyz*, has been sown at 20 experimental stations in the United Kingdom from Scotland to the south of England, and quantities have been sent to Australia, New Zealand, India and Canada as well as to the U. S. A., for experimental planting.

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