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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE

• MAY 15, 1943



Lookout

See Page 314

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Chilte, a bush-like tree found in western Mexico, is a possible source of natural rubber; it is known also as Sinaloa gum.

Lightning caused over one-third of the 540 *forest fires* in the National Parks in 1941, more than in any year on record.

Deaf mutes are being used as instructors by an aircraft manufacturer because green hands learn faster from pantomime than from oral instruction, it is claimed.

Natural carnauba wax combined with a special emulsifying agent is the basis of a new floor *wax* claimed to be self-polishing, slip-retardant and water-resistant.

Brazil is reported to have 81 known deposits of *bauxite* suitable for aluminum production and is planning to set up factories to supply home needs.

The Army Signal Corps has announced the establishment of a *quartz* crystal inspection laboratory in Brazil to help select suitable crystals for electrical instruments.

A New England airline company has applied to the Civil Aeronautics Board for permission to operate *helicopters* to carry airmail and air express in New England and New York State, using postoffice and railroad station rooftops for landing stations.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

ASTRONOMY

What has recently been found out about the arms of spiral nebulae? p. 318.

ENGINEERING

How are cracked automobile cylinder heads being salvaged? p. 312.

How are mirrors used to save ammunition for the Army? p. 307.

How is fluoroscopy now used in industry? p. 316.

How is high frequency radio used in hardening machine parts? p. 319.

What is the biggest air line in the world? p. 311.

GENERAL SCIENCE

What scientists were honored by the National Academy of Sciences? p. 311.

GEOLOGY

Where have deposits of tantalum ore been discovered? p. 312.

MEDICINE

For what medical use are rats replacing war-scarce rabbits? p. 307.

How can fragments of nerves be preserved for later use as grafts? p. 312.

How can the thyroids of persons with goiter be controlled without operation? p. 313.

In what way is penicillin better than the sulfa drugs? p. 312.

To what industrial hazard are very young workers particularly susceptible? p. 308.

What new method is saving lives of Russian brain-wounded soldiers? p. 309.

What new sulfa drug is expected to be effective against dysentery? p. 308.

PSYCHIATRY

How are mental cases handled in the Army? p. 316.

PHYSICS

What message was sent by Einstein to the Mexico physics conference? p. 310.

PSYCHOLOGY

What contributes to the springing up of Nazism? p. 313.

What is the hardest letter of radio code to learn? p. 318.

What jobs can be held by men and women over 100 years old? p. 311.

What special kind of vision is needed by airplane spotters in anti-aircraft crews? p. 310.

What training are Navy lookouts getting to improve their night vision? p. 314.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What disease is becoming worrisome to health officials? p. 308.

What new method of administering immune serum is being studied as a weapon against influenza? p. 309.

RESOURCES

What has been suggested as a way of making the fuel oil supply go further? p. 313.

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.

Argentina, long known as a cattle country, has greatly increased its hog production to turn its corn into *porck* for Europe.

Agricultural uses such as ditching, land clearing, stump blasting and other farm activities consume 5,000,000 pounds of *dynamite* a year.

Over 162,000 deer and elk *hides* were sold to leather industries in the United States during the past season, the contribution of sportsmen.

Protective *metal coats* are applied to metal castings, assemblies or structures by the use of metal-spray guns which contain electrically heated melting pots, the spraying being operated by air pressure.

Tons of *timbo* root, rich in rotenone, a powerful insect poison, are being flown from South America to help protect American crops from insect pests, replacing insecticide ingredients formerly obtained from Japan.

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