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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • AUGUST 21, 1943



For the Brave

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A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

A solution which is *saturated* with one substance is still capable of dissolving others.

U. S. air transports carried 70 tons of *tungsten* from China to India in one eight-week period.

Within two minutes a *parachute squad* can jump, land, slip out of their chutes and commence firing.

The irritation from *nettle*s is due to the formic acid released when the spines enter the skin and break off.

A low-cost miniature "lighthouse" that broadcasts ultraviolet *health rays* to keep war workers well has been developed.

Helium gas added to certain anesthetics renders them noninflammable, and decreases the fire and explosion hazard in operating rooms.

Each week 500 *transatlantic* airplane flights are being made to deliver combat weapons and supplies to the United Nations forces overseas.

The mountains of *Kiska*, although not so lofty as those of other islands in the Aleutian Chain, are over 4,000 feet high and are snow-covered until early summer.

It is estimated that 50 fighting planes can use up 300,000 rounds of small-arms *ammunition* in one minute, which is as much as 10,000 men in Napoleon's army would have used in a day's battle.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

ASTRONOMY

How do astronomers detect the planets of other suns beyond the solar system? p. 122.

CHEMISTRY

How long does it take to develop a chemical project from idea to commercial-size plant? p. 120.

DENTISTRY

What group of persons has the highest tooth decay rate? p. 120.

ENGINEERING

How can the lifetime of machine parts be lengthened? p. 118.

How is an air-conditioning unit modified so that it won't be too heavy for small-home attics? p. 118.

When you build a bonfire of dynamite, what precautions should you observe? p. 119.

ENTOMOLOGY

What effect is the war having on the battle against insects? p. 125.

ETHNOLOGY—MEDICINE

How long ago were evergreen needles used for scurvy? p. 121.

GENERAL SCIENCE

At what age can boys begin the Army specialized training? p. 115.

How many scientists are there in the United States? p. 118.

INVENTION

How can the neighbors be spared when a drummer practices? p. 121.

What has a new type telescope borrowed from gunnery? p. 121.

MEDICINE

How do stomach ulcers form? p. 115.

What does the Navy medical officer on duty need within easy reach? p. 126.

Why is a special tub useful in treating severe burns? p. 115.

NUTRITION

What is the Red Cross sending to war prisoners in its new invalid package? p. 124.

Why can't you take a pill to replace all your food? p. 124.

Why do rats prefer butter to other fats? p. 120.

PALEOBOTANY

What did little Eohippus eat? p. 125.

PHYSICS

How does the sorting of molecules aid in synthetic rubber making? p. 119.

PHYSIOLOGY

Why are reading glasses sometimes wrong for work in war industries? p. 127.

PSYCHOLOGY

How many people can recognize their own voices? p. 116.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What proportion of hospital patients have unsuspected tuberculosis? p. 124.

Where has the infantile paralysis outbreak reached epidemic proportions? p. 120.

RADIO

What radio station broadcasts only ticks, hums and whistles? p. 116.

RESOURCES

Who has been eating Sardinia's sardines? p. 126.

STATISTICS

What month is the month of disasters? p. 119.

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.

Alfalfa leaves have twice as much protein, calcium and phosphorus as the stems.

More than one-fifth of all the patents issued since the inauguration of the U. S. patent system are concerned with the *automobile*.

Army planes can now carry their own *dismountable hangars* to be set up in front-line fighting areas.

New Jersey furnishes 10% of all the fresh fruits and *vegetables* sold in New York City and 20% of those sold in Philadelphia.

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