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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • AUGUST 28, 1943



Wings for Victory

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A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

New Zealand is reported to have opened its first large *meat dehydration* plant.

The first *motorship* built in Mexico, now launched, is a 654-ton vessel for coastal service.

Calcium chloride in an open jar in a clothes closet will absorb enough moisture to prevent *mildew*.

Brazil, with vast deposits of bauxite and potential hydroelectric power, is planning to produce *aluminum* to meet at least its own needs.

Cosmetic industries are booming in spite of shortages in formerly imported ingredients regarded as essentials; sales have jumped 30% since 1939.

Uncorrected *visual defects* are important causes of slow-downs in war production; tired eyes lead to slow work, mistakes and wasted materials.

Many acres of national wildlife refuge land are under lease by the Department of the Interior this year to individuals to produce *food*; this includes in California alone 4,000 acres, capable of producing 200,000 bushels of grain.

The *conifers* of Mesa Verde National Park, in southwestern Colorado, are considered by experts to be the most sensitive, constant, and precise recorders or registers—through tree-ring chronology—of variable precipitation in the Southwest.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

AGRICULTURE

From what region is broom corn now being imported to help relieve shortage? p. 142.

What grass did man first begin to cultivate? p. 141.

ASTRONOMY

At what time do the planets appear in the September sky? p. 138.

BOTANY

What practical uses do the natives make of Cuba's curious belly palms? p. 132.

DENTISTRY

What new treatment has been proposed for toothache? p. 131.

ENGINEERING

How may motor vehicles be kept running at top-notch efficiency? p. 142.

What machine has been patented for detecting flaws in wire? p. 136.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How does the new induction ruling affect scientists? p. 134.

In what ways is it proposed that British and American scientists cooperate? p. 135.

HOME ECONOMICS

Lacking a pressure cooker, how can non-acid vegetables best be prepared for winter use? p. 137.

MEDICINE

How can the family and friends of a badly wounded service man help to rehabilitate him? p. 140.

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.

How much rheumatic fever has been reported in wartime England? p. 131.

In what locality did the new malady called Bullis fever attack first? p. 133.

What new use has been found for the sulfa drugs? p. 135.

NATURAL HISTORY

What reported jungle terrors are mainly exaggerations? p. 143.

NUTRITION

How does distribution of vitamin pills influence a worker's selection of food? p. 136.

What new dehydration process reduces the moisture content of food to only one per cent? p. 132.

OCEANOGRAPHY

How may nature harrass our troops going through the Strait of Messina? p. 136.

PHYSICS

At what mountain-top laboratory are mesotrons being studied? p. 136.

PSYCHOLOGY

What is "Brooklyn syndrome"? p. 134.

PSYCHOLOGY-PHYSIOLOGY

Why is the inside of a glider noisy? p. 137.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Against what diseases have the majority of children been vaccinated? p. 139.

Why has the number of cases of anthrax increased during the war? p. 143

Regular blood donors should follow what kind of diet? p. 137.

What shortage is causing patients to be turned away from hospitals? p. 136.

Forest fires last year burned over a total of 31,854,124 acres of United States woodlands.

Over 500,000 tons of *clay* are used in the rubber and paper industries annually; about 100,000 tons go into dinnerware and other ceramics.

A new method, employing hydrochloric acid reflux apparatus, determines the *salt content* of crude oils.

American *railroad* passenger traffic was 137% greater in 1942 than in 1939, and the volume of freight carried was 91% greater.

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