

Questions

ANTHROPOLOGY—What was the probable source of the African ape-man's first fire? p. 164.

CHEMISTRY—How can the country of origin of opium now be spotted? p. 166.

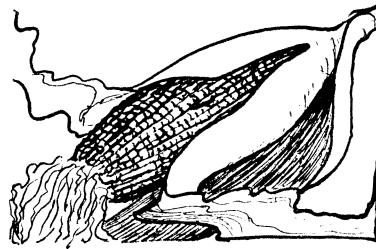
GENERAL SCIENCE—How is prestige now determined by Americans? p. 168.

MEDICINE—How was a new kind of jaundice recently discovered? p. 166.

OCEANOGRAPHY—What is the Northwest Passage? p. 168.

PALEONTOLOGY—What travel method did the archaeopteryx use? p. 168.

Photographs: Cover, U. S. Navy; p. 163, Illinois Institute of Technology; p. 165, Sperry Gyroscope Company; p. 167, The Glenn L. Martin Company; p. 170, Fremont Davis; p. 176, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co.



Survival of the Unfit

➤ **AUTUMN IS** a time for seed-scattering among wild plants, but among cultivated varieties it is a time for harvesting and gathering into barns. In the wild, seed-pods open and shake out their contents as wind and animals rattle the stalks.

Ripe burrs catch on the hair or wool of

animals—especially, it seems, after we have sheared the latter and are wearing the spoils to clothe our own too-sparsely-covered bodies. Winged and parachuted seeds are taking their final flights down the wind. All the thousand devices that accomplish dispersal are at work.

Only the seeds of grain and other food-plants chosen by man are discouraged from dispersal by every means at the breeder's command. If the heads of wheat or barley or rye break up and let go their grain, as grass seed naturally scatter, the agronomist reports disgustedly to the geneticist, "This kind shatters!" — and the offending variety is straightway discarded, or at least bred into tight-clinging docility.

If bean-pods or clover-heads shed their contents without waiting for the thresher, a like fate awaits the strains to which they belong.

Among the commoner crop plants, probably the one that has most completely lost its ability to let go of its own seed is corn. This has been artificially selected by farmers, both white and Indian, for so many generations that all resemblance to its original wild condition has been lost. And in no respect has its ability to look out for itself been more completely lost than in the way its many-rowed cob clings to the grain.

Not even in warmer countries, where the seed would not be winter-killed, does corn escape from cultivation and run wild, as other plants occasionally do.

If man has become greatly dependent on his cultivated plants for his survival, they have become utterly dependent on him. He must thresh out their seeds, saving a part from his ovens and pots to be planted the following year. He must fight weeds, insects and fungus diseases to enable these green vassals of his to survive and reproduce.

If a suicidal nuclear Armageddon should wipe out mankind, it would be only two or three seasons at most until practically all of his principal crop plants would be extinct, too.

Science News Letter, September 11, 1954

QUALITY TOOLS at a Savings up to 60%

ONLY 75c EACH FOR FINEST IMPORTED PRECISION PLIERS

For Jewelers, Optical Workers, Hobbyists, Craftsmen of all kinds. These superb German instruments are of drop-forged, heat-treated high quality tool steel, fabricated, ground and polished to most exacting specifications. Smooth working joints. Jaws meet perfectly to hold the most delicate objects. Each plier is 4" long and a gem of precision and strength. 7 types to choose from; Flat Nose, Round Nose, Snipe, Combination, Diagonal, End Cutting Nippers, or I Side Flat and I Side Round.

75c each

11 Pc. DRAFTING SET
High lustre chrome plated instruments of outstanding quality and accuracy. Set includes Plain and Ringhead Bow Dividers, Compasses for use with ink or pencil, Ruling Pens and all necessary parts. Packed in a velvet lined, snap button closure, simulated leather case.

Complete Set — \$3.29 postpaid

6 Pc. METAL CUTTING FILE SET
Made from the best quality tool steel, designed for the requirements of mechanics, instrument watch and jewelry craftsmen. Compartmented plastic kit contains the following 5/16" long needle files with round shanks and high test cutting qualities: round, half-round, flat, oval, knife, square. **98c** complete set postpaid

13 Pc. HIGH SPEED DRILL SET
Made of finest hardened tool steel. Especially designed for High Speed electric drilling through the hardest metal, steel and wood. Full jobbers lengths and are packed in a sturdy metal index. Sizes by 64ths. from 1/16" to 1/4". Made to sell for **\$3.98** our price only **\$2.98**.

4 Pc. DROP-FORGED TANG CHISEL SET
Swedish pattern, of high quality tempered and hardened tool steel. Blades beveled and polished. Hardwood, leather tipped handles. Set contains one each 1/4", 1/2", 3/4" and 1" chisel in plastic compartment kit.

Complete Set — \$2.95 postpaid

6 Pc. POWER AUGER BIT SET
Made of finest tool steel specially tempered and hardened to give years of quick, clean, easy drilling. Shanks will fit all electric drills. Packed in sturdy, heat-treated, compartmented plastic tool roll. Sizes: 3/8", 1/2", 5/8", 3/4", 7/8", and 1".

\$2.29 complete set postpaid

POLISHED STEEL VERNIER CALIPERS
Imported precision instrument of 5" measuring capacity with inside and outside jaws, depth gauge and friction roller adjustment. Graduations 1/16" and 1/32", vernier readings 128".

\$1.39 postpaid

ALUMINUM LINE & POCKET LEVEL
Made of hard aluminum tubing, 3/8"x3", hexagonal shape, with 2 sturdy hooks for hanging on line. Equipped with luminous vial, tested for accuracy. **49c pp.**

12" WORK BENCH LEVEL
Made of hardwood beech, kiln dried and lacquered. Equipped with horizontal and plumb vial. Horizontal vial covered with a steel plate NPL. **59c pp.**

\$1 MINIMUM ORDER, SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER. IF C.O.D., YOU PAY POSTAGE AND C.O.D. CHARGES. MONEY BACK GUARANTEE IF NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED.

SCOTT-MITCHELL HOUSE, Inc.
611 BROADWAY, DEPT. 811
NEW YORK 12, N. Y.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOG
HUNDREDS OF TOOL & TOOL KITS **25¢** REFUNDED ON FIRST ORDER

LISTEN and LEARN A LANGUAGE by LINGUAPHONE

IN 20 MINUTES A DAY

World's-Standard Conversational Method
FRENCH **SPANISH** **GERMAN**
RUSSIAN **JAPANESE** **MODERN GREEK**
 —29 Languages available

At Home learn easily, quickly by the LINGUAPHONE CONVERSATIONAL METHOD. It's like living in another country. You LISTEN—you hear native men and women speak—you understand—you SPEAK, correctly as they do. Worldwide educational endorsement: a million home-study students. Write for FREE Book, "Passport to A New World of Opportunity."

SEND FOR FREE BOOKLET

LINGUAPHONE INSTITUTE
3109 RCA Building,
New York 20, N. Y.

Send me your FREE book.

Language interest

Name

Address

City Zone State