

# • SCIENCE SHORTS •

## A miscellany of happenings and information in various fields the world over

The use of *natural gas* in place of other fossil fuels in electric power generating plants is suggested as a means of reducing sulfur dioxide pollution of the air.

A new version of the *croquet ball* is being made from compressed sawdust that holds together with a binding agent and is covered by hard plastic.

Raising a *child* to age 18 costs an average family with an annual income of \$6,600 about \$23,835.

A street lighting *tax* was imposed on householders for the first time in 1662 by the city of Paris which provided 6,500 lanterns lighted 20 nights a month, while the moon was supposed to light the other evenings.

*Glass* is one of the oldest of the structural or engineered materials used by man.

If cereal leaf *beetles* were allowed to spread unchecked, the pest could destroy 10% to 30% of the wheat, barley and oat crops in the midwestern United States.

Decomposable new *detergents*, developed at a cost of \$150 million, may be more toxic to fish than the former persistent foaming products.

The total amount of *power* that the earth receives as radiation from the sun far exceeds the amount that can be generated from fossil fuels.

Three types of *herbicides* are now available: pre-emergence herbicides to control weeds before they begin to grow, post-emergence to control them after they appear and non-selective to destroy all plant growth.

"*Athlete's foot*" afflicts an estimated 40 million persons in the United States.

There will be approximately 900 million *children* living in developing areas of the world by the end of 1966.

A battlefield *flare package* capable of providing six minutes of steady, brilliant light over an area 1,300 feet in diameter has been developed.

Echolocating *animals* such as a bat or porpoise can not only locate, but identify and discriminate targets with remarkable efficiency.

A reduction in national *milk* out-

put in 1965 and 1966 and a sell-out of Government dairy products has practically put the United States Government out of the dairy storage business for the time being.

A *man-made vitamin*, K-5, which may one day serve in both protecting man's health and preserving his food is under study.

The long-term effects on the health of animals of various concentrations of *air contaminants* that are products of burning coal are being studied.

The *sage grouse* in the United States is so closely associated with sagebrush that its habitat lies entirely within the areas of the western plains where this plant grows.

Sulfur dioxide *pollution*, which is associated with injury to health and damage to property and vegetation, results primarily from the burning of sulfur-containing coal and fuel oil.

Water bodies collect *fallout* 1.5 times more efficiently than land, some scientists believe.

*Chemicals* that poison plants and human beings in some cases may be the favorite food of microorganisms in the soil, protecting man from consuming them.

The amount of *driving* done at speeds above 60 miles per hour has jumped five-fold in the past decade and auto horsepower has doubled.

Peru is the richest source of *mummies* in the Americas and is second only to Egypt as a source of such anthropological material.

The molecule-laden *atmosphere*, reaching 80 miles above the earth, that poses a threat to men returning from the moon, is a furnace that consumes countless meteoroids cast off by the cyclone of stars.

In Egypt 35,000 *workers* are engaged in the construction of the High Dam at Aswan.

The ability of rock to accept *dynamic* stress without being mechanically altered is greater than believed.

The world's oceans, ice fields, lakes and rivers contain more than 324 million cubic miles of *water*.

• Science News, 89:405 May 21, 1966

## GEOLOGY

### Ancient Mud Lifted From Pacific Floor

► MUD AND DEBRIS, over 135 million years old on the accepted time scale, have been hauled from the bottom of the Pacific Ocean southeast of Japan.

This sediment from the lower Cretaceous period is the oldest yet recovered from the Pacific floor. Dr. Maurice Ewing, director of Columbia University's Lamont Geological Observatory, reported the discovery in *Science*, 152:751, 1966.

• Science News, 89:405 May 21, 1966

**SEE MIRACLE OF BIRTH**  
**\$4.98** POST PAID WITH SIX QUAIL EGGS (\$3.25 Without Eggs.)  
 You get the new clear plastic dome CHICK-BATOR with 6 Bobwhite Quail Eggs (available year-round) and Egg Hatching Guide Book. Complete — nothing else to buy. Send check or Money Order today.  
 G.Q.F. MFG. CO., DEPT. CL, BOX 152, SAVANNAH, GA.

**"GOODBYE FLAB"**  
 Learn how to develop greater energy, stamina and strength, while improving your physical appearance, in the quickest, easiest way possible. 10 brief exercises slim waistline 2 inches in 30 days. A MAX-PLANCK INSTITUTE ISOMETRIC DISCOVERY! Write for free information — MINUTE-A-DAY®. Dept. B, 37 Centuck Station, Yonkers, N. Y. 10710®

**WRITE FOR MONEY!**  
 Enrich your style through Herbert Spencer's and Edgar Allan Poe's classic principles that have influenced many of the world's great authors. Indispensable for writers eager to get published! Send \$1.00 to PAGEANT PRESS, 101 5th AVE., N. Y. 3, Dept. SN.

**NEW** You Need This . . . **NEW**  
**A DICTIONARY OF ASTRONOMY**  
 compiled by C. Robert Ellison  
 To give the student or amateur astronomer quick access to definitions, diagrams and tables used in astronomy.  
 Complete data given! Stars, planets, asteroids, meteor showers, satellites, etc. 100 Pages!  
 \$2.50 postpaid:  
 (check or money order)  
 C. R. ELLISON  
 P.O. Box 20064 Brentwood, Mo. 63144  
**NEW** **NEW**

**GIANT 8 Ft.**  
**\$1.00**  
 Largest Distributors of new Govt. Surplus Balloons in the USA. Inflate with air or gas. Fun at the Beach, Water Sports, etc., Flying Advt. visible for miles. Terrific for attracting crowds at Openings, Fairs, Roadside Stands, Gas Stations, Sports Events. Durable Neoprene Rubber. Guaranteed new. Plus 25¢ hdg. No. C.O.D.  
 2 ft. (Beach Ball) size ----- 5 for \$1.00  
 4 ft. size ----- 2 for \$1.00  
 8 ft. size ----- \$1.00 each, plus 25¢ each hdg.  
 16 ft. size ----- \$3.00 each  
 24 ft. size ----- \$5.00 each  
**NOVEL PROD. CORP.** 31 Second Ave., Dept. 175 New York 3, New York