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

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 persitent 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, billiant 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 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

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 Cre-

taceous 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

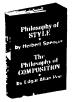
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