

SCIENCE SHORTS

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

Almost one-fourth of the families in the United States *move* each year.

Pigeons, domesticated by man as long as 5,000 years ago, had become a nuisance by 550 B.C.

Heating and utility *bills* that took 3.3% of a wage-earners income in the 1950s now take 5.3% of a larger income.

Crude pine *gum* can now be converted at low cost into chemicals that are potentially important in the production of high-quality paints and plastics.

A *blood pressure* reading taken during a typical medical interview may not be an accurate measurement, since the patient's pressure could increase from tensions caused by the questions.

A *muffler* device is being developed as a protection against automobile asphyxiation.

Dairy cattle with *mastitis*, an inflammatory disease, cost the dairy industry an estimated \$500 million in losses annually.

Sport salmon anglers caught 940,220 *salmon* in marine and freshwater areas in the State of Washington during 1965.

The Atlantic surf *clam*, reaching a maximum size of over seven inches, is one of the largest bivalve mollusks known.

By 1980, it is estimated, the volume of *discharge* of sewage and other organic wastes will be large enough to remove oxygen from all of the nation's chief rivers during their dry season flow.

India was the first country in the world to institute a nationwide *family planning* program.

Women constitute the largest reserve of *labor* in the six member nations of the European Economic Community—Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

A system of synchronous *satellites* orbiting 55,000 miles above the lunar surface could provide adequate communications links among a number of moon expeditionary bases and earth.

Single species *silviculture* invites forest insects and diseases and offers little for wildlife.

The common *cold* may be caused by any of 70 or 80 different viruses which are associated with respiratory problems.

Sublethal doses of *pesticides* fed to laboratory mice in their food reduced reproduction among the animals by as much as 20%.

Swedish *motorists* will be driving on the right side of the road by 1967, leaving only the British and Irish driving on the left.

A new picture of *Mars* as a planet with a cold, thin, carbon dioxide atmosphere whose upper regions are permeated with the haze of dry ice crystals has been constructed from Mariner 4 data by scientists.

The first of the world *religions* introduced to Korea was Buddhism in 372 A.D.

Animal *rabies*, on the rise in the United States, was confirmed in 4,700 cases in 1964, a 16% increase from the previous year.

Twenty-seven *nuclear power plants* have been built or are under construction in the United States.

Until the discovery of the Comstock Lode in 1859, the United States imported nearly all of its *silver*.

A 105-foot high *dome* under construction in Niagara Falls, N.Y., the first geodesic structure in the world to be built as a manufacturing plant, completely eliminates all structural parts that would interrupt process flow.

Fatigue is the most frequently occurring symptom of mental depression.

• *Science News*, 89:474 June 11, 1966

GENERAL SCIENCE

Artistry and Technology Meet in Nigerian Town

➤ ARTISANS hammering tribal daggers and engineers tracking astronauts live together in an African city that was once a junction of medieval camel caravans and is now a center for space communications.

When scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration were planning the first manned space flight in 1960, they had to build a ground station to track the spacecraft as it traveled across the Atlantic from Cape Kennedy.

The newly independent government of Nigeria granted the United States permission to build a telemetry and communications station at Kano, a city founded by Hausa traders 1,000 years ago. Although the agreement originally covered only the one-man project Mercury flights, it was later extended to include other missions.

The main function of the NASA station only six miles south of walled Kano where workers still dye hand-loomed cloth, is to provide voice contact between astronauts and Mission Control Center, Houston.

• *Science News*, 89:474 June 11, 1966

MEDICINE

Tuberculosis Can Attack Membranes, Intestines

➤ TUBERCULOSIS, primarily a lung disease, can also attack many other parts of the body.

An often fatal complication of tuberculosis of the lungs is tuberculosis meningitis which affects the meninges, the membrane covering the brain. Of the 95 cases reported at the National Tuberculosis Association meeting in San Francisco, 41 had died.

A less common form is TB peritonitis, involving the membrane surrounding the abdominal cavity. There were 76 cases reported among the 19,205 patients admitted to North Carolina TB hospitals between 1957 and 1963.

Tuberculosis of the intestinal tract was reported in six California cases, resulting in five different complications. These included perforation and obstruction of the ileum, obstruction of the duodenum, perforation at the site of an appendectomy and ileocolic fistula.

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