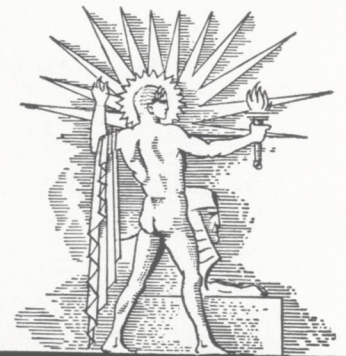


PRICE
15¢

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



MARCH 14, 1931

Electricity Assembles a Steel Serpent

See Page 168

A

SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XIX

No. 518

The Weekly  Current Summary of Science

Published by

SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

Subscription rates—\$5.00 a year postpaid. 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Special reduced subscription rates are available to members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In requesting change of address, please give old as well as new address.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

Board of Trustees of Science Service

Honorary President, William E. Ritter, University of California. Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, J. McKeen Cattell, *President*, Editor, Science, Garrison, N. Y.; Burton E. Livingston, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Raymond Pearl, Director, Institute for Biological Research, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. Representing the National Academy of Sciences, John C. Merriam, *President*, Carnegie Institution of Washington; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California; David White, *Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee*, Senior Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey. Representing National Research Council, Vernon Kellogg, *Permanent Secretary*, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; C. G. Abbot, Secretary Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe, Editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Representing Journalistic Profession, John H. Finley, Associate Editor, New York Times; Mark Sullivan, Writer, Washington, D. C.; Marlen E. Pew, Editor of Editor and Publisher, New York City. Representing E. W. Scripps Estate, Harry L. Smithson, *Treasurer*, Cincinnati, Ohio; Robert P. Scripps, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, West Chester, Ohio; Thomas L. Sidlo, Cleveland, Ohio.

Staff of Science Service

Acting Director, Vernon Kellogg; Managing Editor, Watson Davis; Staff writers; Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, J. W. Young, Elizabeth Spence, D. Lindsay Watson; Librarian, Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

Copyright, 1931, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited since it is distributed for personal, school, club or library use only. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service, details and samples of which will gladly be sent on request.

Publication Office, 1930 Clifton Ave., Baltimore, Md. Editorial and Executive Office, Constitution Ave. at 21st St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Address all communications to Washington, D. C. Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.

Entered as second class matter October 1, 1926, at the postoffice at Baltimore, Md., under the act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trade-mark, U. S. Patent Office.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

Southern raccoons furnish pelts for coats, but heavy-furred northern raccoons furnish the collars and cuffs.

Traveling traders began to specialize in their wares along toward the end of the Bronze Age, judging by hoards of old sickles and swords found in Europe.

The skin of a person who gets little sunlight in winter months becomes sensitive to changes in temperature, Cornell professors have found, and this condition may make them more susceptible to colds.

Buenos Aires has a new subway four miles long.

The hog-nosed snake is one of the useful reptiles of New England, feeding largely on field mice and other small rodents.

Antlers of the extinct giant Irish deer sometimes branched to a spread of twelve feet.

Thirty-five years ago, early automobile models were set about 20 inches from the ground; whereas today the usual clearance is about 12 inches.

Mulberry trees are being planted in Mexico, in the hope that a silk industry can be established there.

Speedometer tests of a quail's flight indicate that 58 miles an hour is a top speed for these birds, and 40 miles is the average "cruising" speed.

The "trunk" of the banana plant is a cluster of closely packed leaf stalks.

A mutilated statue on the Acropolis at Athens has been identified as a missing figure from the famous Western Pediment group of the Parthenon.

In a test of the keeping qualities of flowers, those that lasted longest were roses, orchids, lilies, carnations, chrysanthemums, spring flowers and calendulas.

WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

ARCHAEOLOGY		MEDICINE	
Business Cycles Affected Mound		New Device Corrects Cross-eyes	165
Building	174	New Type of Deafness	168
Clay Hands to Aid the Dead	173	METEOROLOGY	
Egyptian Guide to Heaven	166	Ample Rain Forecast	170
ASTRONOMY		NATURAL HISTORY	
Moon Lacks Oxygen	163	St. Patrick Saw No Irish Snakes	170
Triple Anniversary	165	OCEANOGRAPHY	
BOTANY		Bottle's Four-Year Voyage	168
Bowyer's Tree	175	PALEONTOLOGY	
Three Annual Chestnut Crops	168	Ape Fossils in Holland	169
CHEMISTRY		PHOTOGRAPHY	
Boron and Aluminium	171	Memorial for Movie Pioneer	169
ENGINEERING		PHYSICS	
Welded Pipe Line	168	Magnetism In Intense Cold	169
ENTOMOLOGY		PHYSIOLOGY	
40,000 Miles Per Pound of Honey	168	Phosphorus in Fish Blood	173
GENERAL SCIENCE		PSYCHOLOGY	
First Glances At New Books	176	Feeling Important Helps Heal	165
Friend of Science Retires	164	Study of Individuals Urged	169
Polar Year Bill Fails	164	PUBLIC HEALTH	
GEOGRAPHY		Quarantine Law Amended	174
Cold Effected Animal Distribution	175	ZOOLOGY	
GEOLOGY		Cold Effected Animal Distribution	175
Age of the Earth	163	Rare Panda	163
		Scarface Loses Yellowstone Racket	169

Science Service presents over the radio, an address

THE RATIONALE OF WEIGHT REDUCTION

By Dr. Francis G. Benedict, director of the Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, located in Boston. Together with an interesting presentation of the effect of certain foods on the human body, Dr. Benedict will describe the only way to lose weight safely

Friday, March 20, at 3:45 P. M., Eastern Standard Time

Over Stations of

The Columbia Broadcasting System