

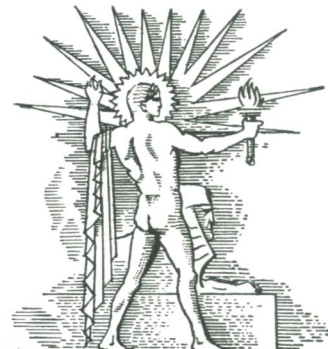
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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER



THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



APRIL 28, 1934

'Gator's Great-Gran'pappy

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DO YOU KNOW?

There are 450 horticultural associations listed in the United States.

The ill-famed skunk is a valuable ally of the farmer in running down and devouring Japanese beetle grubs.

By use of infrared rays, a research worker is reading the censored portions of Spanish inquisition records, which were long ago blotted out.

An archaeologist who studied 2,000 inscriptions concludes that among the ancient Greeks average expectancy of life was only about 29 years.

The Dutch elm disease, which is now attacking elm trees in New York and New Jersey, is reported to be still unchecked in its spread in Europe.

Papyrus, the Egyptian writing "paper," was probably introduced into Greece and Rome after Alexander the Great made his victorious Egyptian expeditions.

The vision of children as young as two years can be tested scientifically.

The shortage of rain that has been felt in North America in recent years has had for one result a large number of dust storms.

Illinois has passed a law requiring the use of prophylactic drops in the eyes of all newborn babies, to safeguard them against babies' sore eyes.

An archaeologist recently cut down a four-inch maple tree in six minutes, using a 9,000-year old flint axe made by a prehistoric Scandinavian.

Ultraviolet rays enable the art connoisseur to distinguish ancient marble from marble fresh cut and from ancient marble reshaped at a later date.

Indians of tropical America made purple dye from a marine snail belonging to the same genus that yielded the famous Tyrian purple of the Old World.

WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

ARCHAEOLOGY

How did the wives of Rim-Sin rival each other? p. 269. *Early History of Assyria, to 1000 B.C.*—Sidney Smith—Dutton, 1929, \$12.

ASTRONOMY—PHYSICS

How can television aid the astronomer? p. 268.

How far can a candle flame be seen? p. 265.

CHEMISTRY

Of what practical use is deuterium? p. 265.

ETHNOLOGY

How does one tribe avoid the mother-in-law quarrel? p. 265.

EVOLUTION

What makes man's arms just the right length? p. 267.

What theory of evolution is held by Drs. Morgan and Haldane? p. 259. *The Scientific Basis of Evolution*—Thomas Hunt Morgan—Norton, 1932, \$3.50.

Where do the greatest problems of evolution center? p. 267.

GENETICS

What are the four ways in which heredity can affect the development of disease? p. 266. *Organic Evolution*—Richard Swann Lull—Macmillan, Rev. ed., 1929, \$4.50.

What is the cause of giant pears on normal sized trees? p. 266.

GEOLOGY

What is speed for a snail? p. 264.

ICHTHYOLOGY

What fish out-sharks the shark? p. 269. *Field Book of Marine Fishes of the Atlantic Coast*—Charles M. Breder—Putnam's, 1929, \$5.

MEDICINE

Can your dog carry infantile paralysis? p. 264.

How can you be healthy at 91? p. 259.

How has a football been used to save life? p. 268.

What is "A. T. 10"? p. 265.

What is the danger of headache powders? p. 260.

PALEONTOLOGY

How can scientists tell about the diet of ancient sloths? p. 265.

In what fresh-water lake do sharks swim? p. 261.

PHOTOGRAPHY—MEDICINE

How can physicians look beneath the skin? p. 261.

PHYSICS

How is an electron "seen" by the physicist? p. 262.

Is air necessary for the propagation of an explosion wave? p. 264.

What does an atom look like? p. 259. *Introduction to Modern Physics*—F. K. Richtmyer—McGraw-Hill, 2nd ed., 1934, \$5.

Where is the magnetic field strongest? p. 264.

PHYSIOLOGY

For how long will a cut nerve remain active? p. 264.

How does a fish change its color? p. 263.

How does benzol vapor kill? p. 267.

In what way is the circulation of blood like the atmosphere? p. 260.

PSYCHOLOGY

Are ten tones ten times as loud as any one singly? p. 270.

These curiosity-arousing questions show at a glance the wide field of scientific activity from which this week's news comes. Book references in italic type are not sources of information for the article, but the references for further reading. Books cited can be supplied at Book Department, Science News Letter, at publishers' prices, prepaid in the United States.