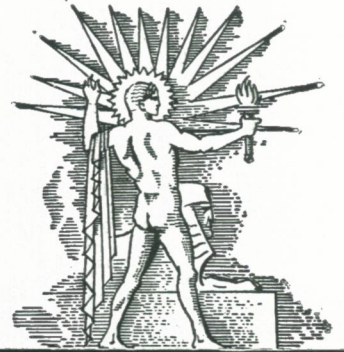


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THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



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Through the Eyes of the Lowly

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DO YOU KNOW?

Light has a rapid weakening effect on all grades of paper.

A British company will operate a chain of plants to extract motor fuel from coal.

An oxide film on the surface of steel will greatly reduce the wear in the contact of the steel against steel.

England is trying out electrically heated wallpaper made of copper-nickel wire, as a sort of radiant heating device.

Cellophane woven with wool into soft fabrics is being used in embroidered ribbons as trimming and to some extent in millinery.

A census of insects in Great Britain is being taken for the first time, by studying a "cross-section" of the insect population captured in light traps.

The cactus has gained such favor for indoor and garden use that several Southwestern states have passed laws to prevent wholesale removal of desert plants.

A method of speeding up the career of leather, so that it ages and deteriorates in a few months, has been developed by government chemists, in their researches to produce leather resistant to decay.

Indian farmers, like modern farmers, were plagued by cutworms.

The important sulphur deposits along the Gulf coast were first discovered when men were drilling for oil.

New York State has the problem of absorbing one-fourth of the foreign-born population in the United States.

The Romans were mostly dark-haired people, but the desire to be blonde led some Roman ladies to experiment with bleaches and other preparations.

A defrosting chamber which prevents moisture from condensing on chilled meats and poultry has been devised for Canadian packing houses.

To get a hydroelectric generating station to a mining camp in the wilds of New Guinea, the equipment will be carried forty miles by plane.

The races of man were set in their present forms, at least the white and black, as far back as the Aurignacian age, 30,000 years ago, a French scientist says.

Chemists find that if fruit in refrigerator cars is given a simple treatment of carbon dioxide, millions of dollars in loss from rot and disease in transit can be avoided.

WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

ARCHAEOLOGY

Why was the oldest peace treaty shaped like a net? p. 403. *The Sumerians*—C. Leonard Woolley—Oxford, 1928, \$2.50.

ASTRONOMY

Does the sky ever rain gold onto the earth? p. 407.

How are the planets charged electrically as compared with the sun? p. 404.

Where do meteorites come from? p. 404. *Astronomy*—R. R. Moulton—Macmillan, 1931, \$3.75.

ASTROPHYSICS

With what instrument was oxygen detected on the sun? p. 410.

AVIATION

How does smoke aid the airplane designer? p. 405.

ENTOMOLOGY

How many facets has the eye of a water bug? p. 406. *The Biology of Insects*—George H. Carpenter—Macmillan, 1928, \$6.50.

MEDICINE

How does arteriosclerotic heart disease differ from angina? p. 404.

Why is milk denied to patients with lead poisoning? p. 409.

What causes rheumatism in children? p. 410.

ORNITHOLOGY

How are the trumpeter swans to be preserved from extinction? p. 411.

PHYSICS

How do California scientists hope to increase the production of neutrons a thousand fold? p. 408.

What were the three major objections to the corpuscular theory of the nature of cosmic rays? p. 403.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

What effect has the curling of corn leaves in dry weather? p. 409. *Principles of Plant Physiology*—Oran Raber—Macmillan, 1928, \$3.

PSYCHOLOGY

Is an advertisement 4 inches square just twice as effective as one 2 inches square? p. 405.

Why do people tend to see stars as constellations? p. 410.

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 by Book Department, Science News Letter, at publishers' prices, prepaid in the United States.