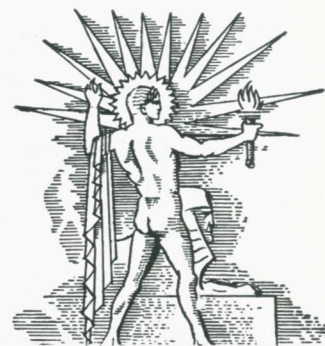


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SCIENCE REVIEW OF THE YEAR

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



DECEMBER 22, 1934

“O Ye Ice and Snow, Bless the Lord!”

See Page 393

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SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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Current Science

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## SCIENCE SERVICE

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## DO YOU KNOW?

Vanilla comes from the pods of a climbing orchid.

The Hebrew University in Jerusalem has on its staff 16 exiled German professors.

A white woman, Maria Estrada, took part in the Spanish Conquest of Mexico in 1521.

Chemists in Prague are testing healing mineral waters to see whether they contain "heavy water."

Rumanian scientists have found a way of isolating pure nicotine solution in concentrations of 50 to 80 per cent. from waste tobacco.

The Irish government has been giving a number of Irish unemployed jobs excavating sites containing relics of Ireland's ancient inhabitants.

Camels were not known in Africa in prehistoric times.

A grouse may eat 30 to 40 grapes at a meal, swallowing them whole, too.

In the first year of life a baby doubles in height and triples in weight.

It is believed that lions depend more on hearing than on scent when they hunt.

A baby's milk teeth, and even parts of its second set of teeth, are formed before birth.

Death masks of their ancestors were cherished by patrician families of ancient Rome.

A German firm has been manufacturing Vitamin C in powder form for more than a year.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

The most important scientific events of the year 1934 are epitomized in the Review of the Year which begins on page 388 of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER. To obtain further details in connection with most of these achievements, you have only to turn to your file of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, Volumes XXV and XXVI. The index to Volume XXV appeared in the issue of June 30, 1934; the index to the current volume will appear next week in the issue of December 29.

## AERONAUTICS

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## AGRICULTURE

What does research mean to the farmer? p. 387.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

How did the Mayas protect the city of Becan? p. 393.

How long ago did man live in America? p. 389.

## ASTRONOMY

What caused a new star to appear in the west? p. 387.

What comet was a recent visitor? p. 392.

What shape is the Milky Way galaxy? p. 390.

## BIOLOGY

What is the smallest unit of heredity that has been accurately located? p. 390.

## CHEMISTRY

What sort of wealth is being extracted from the sea commercially? p. 391.

## ENGINEERING

What is the largest ship to sail the seas? p. 391.

## GENERAL SCIENCE

In what country were the Nobel Prizes in science awarded this year? p. 398.

## GEOGRAPHY

How does the sea tilt the earth's crust? p. 392.

What may detract from the value of government-made maps? p. 393.

## GEOLOGY

How old is the earth? p. 394.

## MEDICINE

What important hormone was isolated in pure crystalline form during 1934? p. 395.

## METEOROLOGY

How far do pilot balloons travel before they come to earth? p. 395.

## ORNITHOLOGY

What are some of the birds that are Christmas guests in the United States? p. 399.

## PHYSICS

Who demonstrated the possibility of artificial transmutation of matter? p. 396.

## PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

How can polarized light burst plant cells? p. 393.

## PSYCHOLOGY

Does response to light depend upon the "visual" area in the occipital lobes of the brain? p. 397.

## RADIO

How many radio sets are in use in the United States? p. 392.

## STATISTICS

What chance do newlyweds have of reaching their golden wedding anniversary? p. 392.

## TECHNOLOGY

Can rugs serve as heaters? p. 392.