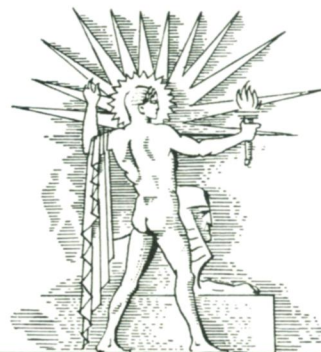


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



May 4, 1940

Floating Design

See Page 280

A S C I E N C E S E R V I C E P U B L I C A T I O N

Do You Know?

To fight spread of *malaria* in China, the American Red Cross is shipping a million quinine sulphate tablets.

Growing *Easter lily* bulbs in the South and storing the bulbs in summer for a short artificial "winter," florists can now sell lilies in autumn.

Sluggings in holdups caused over half of the jaw fracture cases admitted to the U. S. Veterans' Hospital at Hines, Illinois, in the past seven and one-half years, a staff physician reports.

The idea that factory *ice-cream* is less cold than home-made ice-cream is probably due to air bubbles in factory ice-cream, says a dairy scientist: the bubbles serve as insulators, keeping the taster from feeling the cold sensation so quickly.

Why some automobile parts never *squeak* is explained in photographing colors reflected from an oil film: when a minutely thin continuous flow is formed on the surface of the metal there is no squeak, and the photographic studies may aid in finding oils best suited for lubrication where extreme pressures exist.

Says William C. Hayes, in the Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art: "The Egyptian *artist* reached his peak, not when struggling with some huge, conventional project—a royal tomb, a great temple, a colossal statue—but when turning out small and preferably frivolous objects, destined for no more serious end than to delight and amuse some pretty girl in the pharaoh's harem."

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS ISSUE

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

AGRICULTURE

Where do rennets come from? p. 280.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Where is it unsafe for Girl to meet Boy without his hat? p. 284.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Why did Abraham adopt a slave as a son? p. 280.

BIOCHEMISTRY

What chemical is used in a new blood test? p. 283.

BOTANY

How may beautiful designs grow naturally? p. 280.

CHEMISTRY

With what material is "liquid wood" analogous? p. 281.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How many medals were awarded at the meeting of the Franklin Institute? p. 275.

What are the physical properties of the new-found germ-killers in the soil? p. 276.

How can the mid-sky moon be made to appear larger? p. 276.

What languages will be spoken at the Eighth American Science Congress? p. 278.

How does light affect the eye's electric potential? p. 285.

Where is the swastika a sign of death? p. 286.

GEOPHYSICS

What factors determine rate of evaporation of water from ground areas? p. 284.

PHYSICS

What will be the first use of the new electron microscope? p. 275.

How can better mayonnaise be made? p. 281.

Where will the world's future power reservoirs be found? p. 282.

PHYSIOLOGY

In what way may fatty substances influence hormone reactions? p. 279.

To what dangers is the newest physiological journal exposed? p. 280.

PSYCHOLOGY

Are there personal differences in pain sensitivity? p. 280.

What is the basis of the "phantom limb" illusion? p. 281.

A New York agricultural experiment station is evolving a pure *maple jelly* as a maple food product.

A Connecticut man runs a "hospital" for *ailing radios*, staffed with "diagnosticians and surgeons," and replete with hospital atmosphere.

First man to have climbed all *mountain* peaks in Western United States—there are more than 60 of them—is Carl Melzer, says *Explorers Journal*.

For want of *coal* to work Lapland iron ore, Sweden has been accustomed to export the ore, but steps toward a local industry have been in progress.

A commercial process for extracting vitamin C from *roses* was recently reported from Sweden.

Although *coffee* was drunk during the Middle Ages, not until 1625 was sugar popularly used in it, and milk not until 1660.

A chemical derived from castor oil is being used, in combination with a small amount of pyrethrum, as a new *fly spray*.

Practically all wild animals except common rabbits will *bite* a man when first handled, says a writer in *Natural History Magazine*.

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He turns in five or six stories a day. He insists on tackling only the toughest assignments. He rates ace-high with a large group of men who produce the best news in the world but hate to let it out because they've been misquoted and misrepresented by so many reporters not specially trained to write about their work. He gets from them stories that mean new health for the sick, new profit for business men, new knowledge for those who would learn, new foods for the housewife, new ways of raising healthy babies, new labor-saving devices for those who toil. Each of his stories has fascination for thousands of readers. Here are some he has dug up in the last few days:

Memphis scientists combine sulfanilamide with a World War explosive (dinitrophenol) to prolong lives of guinea pigs with tuberculosis, offering hope of permanent cure. . . . Sulfamethylthiazole dramatically saves five babies desperately ill with staphylococcus throat infections. . . . Germany believed to be aided by P. E. T. N., explosive made without use of glycerine. . . . Oil chemist theorizes that earth may be making petroleum faster than man uses it. . . . Two of America's largest aircraft manufacturers expected to join in supplying Allies with world's fastest bombers. . . .

Iowa surgeon uses prothrombin to clot blood during operations. . . . Apple industry develops new candy to offset loss of export trade. . . . Canadian chemists produce liquid wood by methods similar to those Germany uses for getting gasoline from coal. . . . Mauna Loa, Hawaii's giant volcano, is a very gentle dragon, having killed no one in its more than 25 outbreaks since 1832. . . . Rayon cord tires make 30 times standard tire mileage under severe tests. . . . Eclipsed sun's rim photographed in the light of its invisible infra-red radiation. . . . University of California gets \$1,150,000 for new cyclotron (atom smasher) that will produce energies of more than 100 million volts. . . .

Wisconsin chemists expect early discovery of new vitamin. . . . National Bureau of Standards recommends air conditioning of newspaper press rooms to prevent web breaks. . . . Detroit scientists find new clue to cause of petit mal epilepsy, disease that has baffled doctors throughout history. . . . Curds and whey now used to make beverages, soup, syrup, cheese, candy, fabrics and plastics. . . . Artificial diamonds a prospect for future. . . . Wars in Polynesia were fought by women with hair-pulling a dominant strategy. . . . New Jersey scientist perfects new insecticide from castor bean plant. . . .

Buffalo biologists kill trichinosis parasites with ultra-short radio waves. . . . Premature babies thrive better on half-skimmed milk than whole milk. . . . Ink blots used to select mental patients who can be healed by insulin shock treatment. . . . Kansas City scientists find way to make grass into human food rich in vitamins. . . . New B vitamin cures some cases of pernicious anemia. . . . Dilantin sodium prevents convulsions in many cases of epilepsy. . . . American scientists wage dramatic fight against typhus fever in five Hungarian villages. . . . System of healing wounds with maggots reduced to simpler basis. . . .

U. S. Army streamlines its emergency rations. . . . Frequency modulated radio defeats barrage of man-made lightning. . . . Squinting children taught to see straight. . . . Men and women who hate to be 30, 40 or 50 years old cause errors in census. . . . Three new drugs offer hope for victims of heart disease. . . . Colorado metallurgists develop an alloy as strong as steel and as noiseless as rubber. . . . University of Pennsylvania physicians report sulfathiazole better than sulfapyridine for treatment of pneumonia. . . .

This rare fellow—who works just as hard as the movie brand of reporter drinks—is the personification of the Science Service staff.

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