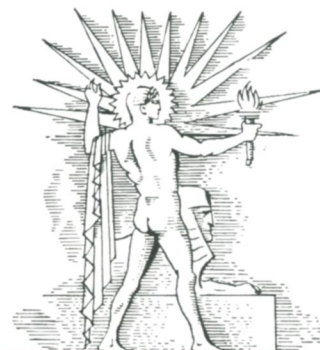


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



July 20, 1940

Fire Fighter

See Page 36

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?

A Mexican firm plans to make a product similar to Bakelite from a *cactus*.

Ancient Rome observed rigid and deliberate ceremonies before declaring *war*.

Glaring headlights may blind a driver or pedestrian as long as three seconds, tests show.

Young *mallard ducks* can swim a third of a mile when they first leave the nest, Michigan conservationists state.

Salt or vinegar will not *set colors* in cotton goods prepared with the modern dyes, says an extension clothing specialist.

Why a robin has to tug for an *earth-worm*: the worm's body has nearly 1,000 hook-like bristles that can grip the earth.

A new Swedish method of impregnating timber with *arsenic* is believed satisfactory for making spruce wood resistant to decay and insects.

Recent *hearing tests* indicate that about one person in 25 has trouble hearing in an auditorium, and one in 400 has difficulty over the telephone.

A *relief map* of the United States 32 by 20 feet, completed by WPA workers, is called the largest accurate three-dimensional map of the country.

Giving suitable intelligence tests to *Australian natives*, a psychologist found some much brighter than others, and the brightest with apparently high intelligence.

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.

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PSYCHOLOGY

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PUBLIC HEALTH

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ZOOLOGY

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Rubber furniture, manufactured from latex, is reported as new.

A *skyscraper* built in 1930 required about 25% less steel than one of the same size built in 1912.

About one person in 18 is badly poisoned by ordinary contact with *poison ivy*, and resistance seems to run in families, says a botanist.

By ingenious practice equipment, German *parachute* soldiers are taught within a few feet of ground to jump and land as though from great height.

Japan is producing *glycerine* from hardened sardine oil.

There are nearly 55,000 licensed *amateur radio* operators in this country.

A type of European *corn borer* now spreading in New York State produces two broods a season instead of one.

The Southwest Museum has an Indian basket with three *dromedaries* woven into its design—a relic of the attempt of U. S. government officials to introduce these desert beasts into the Southwest nearly a century ago.

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