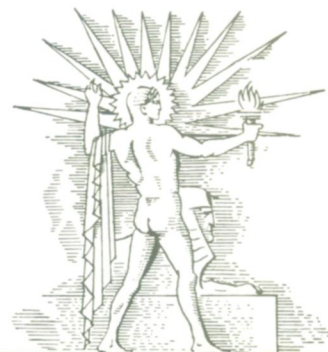
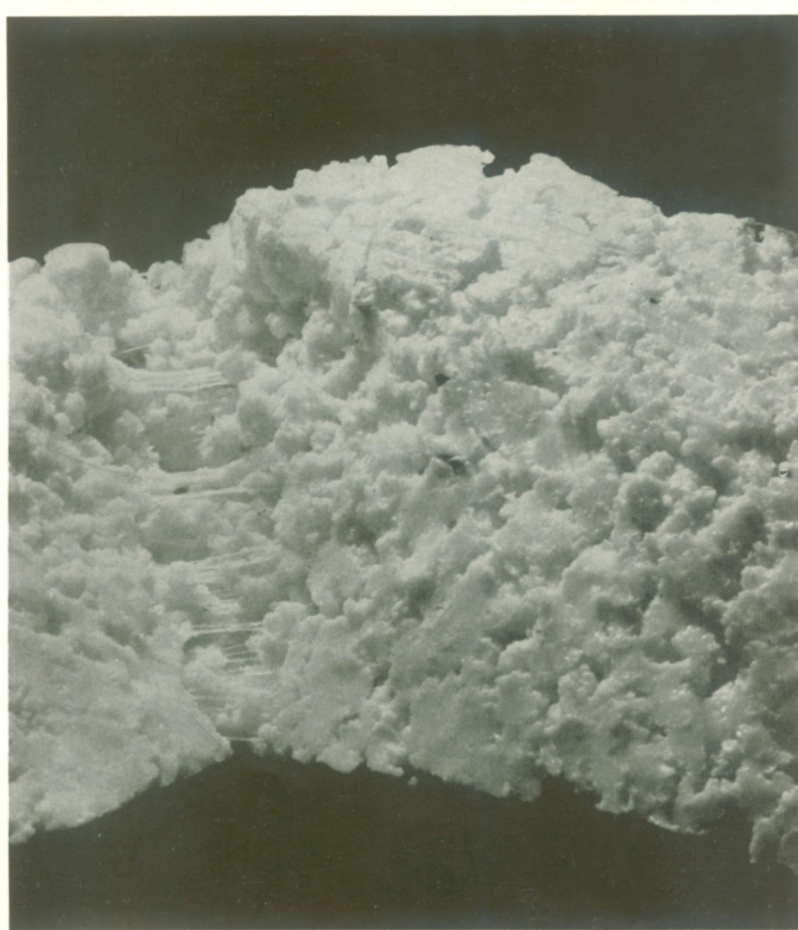


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



September 21, 1940

Synthetic Rubber

See Page 179

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

About 4,000 acres of flowers and vegetables are under *greenhouse* glass in the United States.

That *Spanish* be a *required* subject in U. S. public schools is advocated by a Texas Congressman.

Slow-moving "pedestrians" of the sea, certain types of *sharks* have been known to be impaled on the prows of ocean vessels.

City *dumps* of today, like trash heaps of the past, preserve valuable evidence of the state of a civilization, for later archaeological study.

Treated with zinc chloride by a new method evolved by government scientists, *fence posts* last 10 to 15 years longer than untreated posts.

By rigging up an *electrocuting* screen for flies, a government fish hatchery has rid itself of these pests and by feeding the flies to the fish, has cut down feed bills.

This converted one western farmer to soil conservation: he came across an old mowing machine buried in *28 inches* of soil that had washed off his crop land in 27 years.

In order to hatch and destroy any *moth eggs* lurking in stored furs, an Oregon storage plant sets the temperature at 33 degrees Fahrenheit for 14 days, then 60 degrees for six days, then drops to zero for one day.

## 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.

### CHEMISTRY

How can coal and oil be made from farm crops? p. 187.

What important new product may now be made from waste oil refinery gases? p. 179.

What uses will be found for the new heavy sulfur? p. 187.

### DENTISTRY

How will the defense program lead to a boom in false teeth? p. 186.

### ETHNOLOGY

What did "ethnocentrism" mean in 1906? p. 183.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

On what do scientists, philosophers and religionists agree? p. 180.

What concept does Einstein believe causes the conflict between religion and science? p. 181.

### HERPETOLOGY

How far can a spitting cobra throw its venom? p. 190.

### MEDICINE

How was permanent recovery from diabetes achieved in cats? p. 183.

What disease is attacked by the new drug of the sulfa family? p. 184.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What effect has the newly discovered blood enzyme on heroin and other habit-forming drugs? p. 183.

### PSYCHOLOGY

Are girls any more musical than boys? p. 185.

What sort of research has led to the conclusion that the mind is a machine? p. 186.

Why are bright babies born in the spring-time? p. 184.

Why are the odors in a political meeting place important? p. 184.

### PSYCHOLOGY—AERONAUTICS

How can scientists learn just how tense student pilots are? p. 184.

How can the effect on vision of lack of oxygen be counteracted? p. 185.

### VOLCANOLOGY

What warning may be given by a volcano of its eruption? p. 185.

Canning edible green *soybeans* is a new venture in the national food industry.

The native *cabbage rose* of Europe has been grown for more than 2,000 years.

Thirty strawberries or a small portion of cole-slaw provides a day's ration of *vitamin C* for an adult.

*Air conditioning* has become increasingly in demand in *India* since the war, mainly because Europeans take fewer vacations abroad and are inclined to spend more money on home and office cooling.

The Fahrenheit scale for *thermometers* was devised about 1720; the Centigrade scale about 1742.

More than 200,000 *horses* were used by the German army in its Polish conquest, a German official estimates.

Grading tiny ball bearings is highly important in *aircraft* shops—a hundred-thousandth of an inch makes a difference.

Government chemists have discovered that treating vanilla beans with *ethylene* gas speeds up curing and improves the vanilla extract.

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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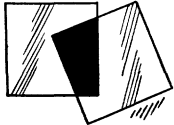
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try out, feel  
--and OWN unusual

# Things in science

What will Members get in the first three monthly units of THINGS?



## OPTICS UNIT

Two areas of valuable optical film will go to members. With them you can perform experiments that will be easy for you but which have baffled the world's finest minds for more than 250 years. We will describe four of these experiments which you can perform without buying any additional equipment. Then we'll explain *how* these films work.

## FINGERPRINT UNIT

Fingerprinting is in the news these days. One thinks of impressing an ink-smudged finger on paper—a messy business. Members will receive an *inkless fingerprinting outfit* with material good for many impressions. There will be a purse fingerprint card that may sometime be useful to you in cashing a check, and an official complete fingerprint record document which may be registered with the Government or kept in your safety deposit box. We'll tell you *how to classify* the arches, loops, whorls and composites in yours or any fingerprints.



## FABRICS UNIT

Members will receive a piece of *cloth spun from glass*; a tuft of fiber *made from milk* which feels like wool; a silk-like cloth made from *salt, coal, lime and air*; a sheet of paper that feels like cloth; and other new fabrics which are products of scientific experiment.

**Coming-** THINGS units on Taste, Plastics, Meteorites, Heredity, Odors, Archaeology, to name a few of the units on which the Staff of Science Service is now working.

### Message to Schools

The description of each unit of THINGS will be on bristol board, with a museum-style legend for use in a laboratory display cabinet if desired. The legend card will also contain on its lower portion, a clear, brief explanation of the contents of the unit.

FOR YEARS, we of the staff of Science Service, the non-profit institution for the dissemination of scientific knowledge, have been asked questions like these:

How can I get a sample of *this* new substance? or

What does *that* new product feel like? or

My son asked me about this discovery, and I want to make it more real to him—can you send me a *demonstration unit*?

In the past we had no way to meet these requests, but there have been so many of them that we have *now worked out a way*.

A new science group is being organized to receive THINGS of science. The membership of this group is by necessity limited during 1940 to 1,000 and restricted to the United States. To each member of this new group we will each month dispatch a *unit of scientific material*, unusual, intriguing, surprising. With each unit we will supply a brief, clear explanation of its contents.

Since this is a non-profit organization, THINGS will not attempt to make money, so the membership charge has been set at \$2. Every member will get the full measure of interest and curiosity-satisfying knowledge from his monthly unit of THINGS.

The membership period will reach from November, 1940 through May, 1941, and will entitle each member to *seven* monthly units of THINGS.

You are invited to become a member. We recommend that you send us the following application form *immediately* because when a total of 1,000 friends of science have joined, the roster will have to be closed.

## MAIL THIS APPLICATION

To: *Things*

2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

I hereby apply for membership in your new science group, and enclose \$2 for the seven units which are to be dispatched to me monthly, postage prepaid, from November 1940 through May 1941.

Signature .....

Mailing Address .....

City & State .....