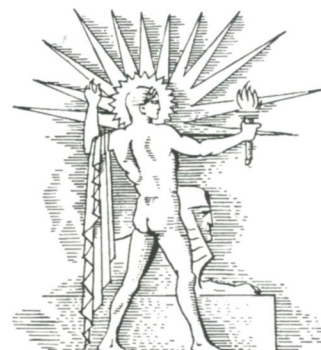
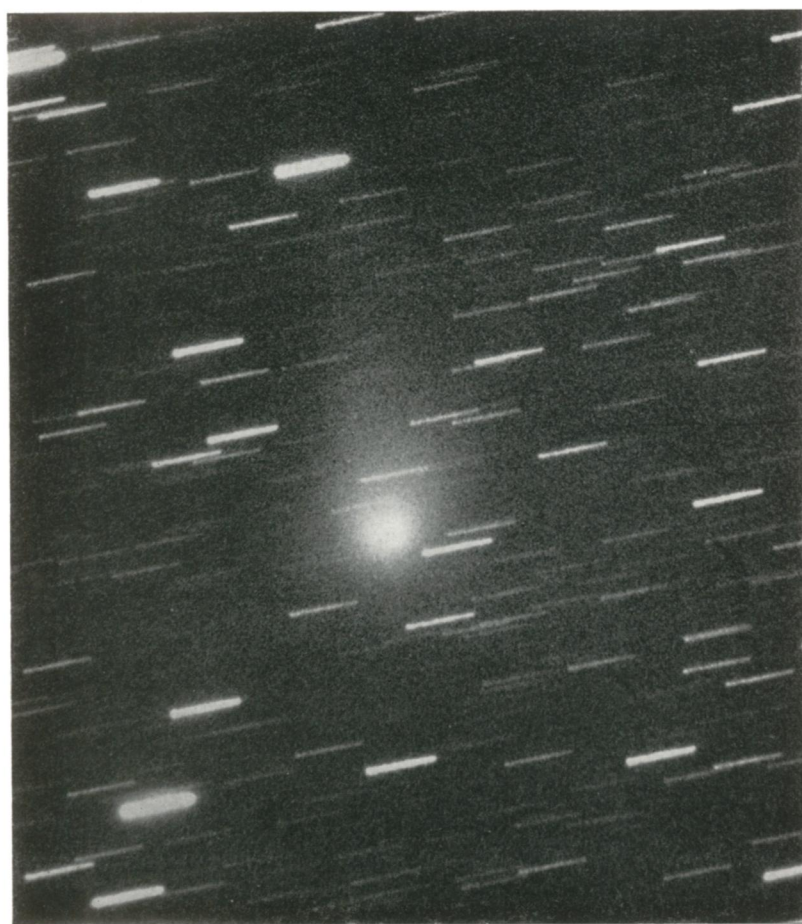


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



November 16, 1940

Christmas "Star"

See Page 312

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?

The Dutch were first to grow *pine-apples* in Europe.

In an average lifetime, a human *heart* beats two billion times.

Speeding up production, *nylon* yarn factories expect to turn out 16,000,000 pounds a year by the end of 1942.

The British Navy's newest motor *torpedo-boats* are described as fastest small warships in the world.

*Dahlia roots*, says an agricultural extensionist, are stored best in dry sand or peat moss, in a cool basement.

In 1782, Spain tried and failed to take Gibraltar by using a *secret weapon*—bomb-proof floating batteries.

While a *battleship* is 93% steel, its materials also include copper, lead, zinc, aluminum, cork, wood, asbestos, cement and glass.

When meadow mice destroy *pine trees*, they girdle the tree above ground; pine mice, on the other hand, usually work underground at the roots.

Among the Aranda tribe of Australia, says an anthropologist, a man is ordinarily expected to *marry* his mother's mother's brother's daughter's daughter.

A new *sewing thread* patented in the United States is said to be so smooth that it greatly reduces friction in passing through a fabric.

## 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.

### ASTRONOMY

How long has the spot-producing area of the sun been active? p. 312.

What are nebulum and coronium? p. 316.

What star became 20% brighter within one week? p. 313.

### BOTANY

How can holly be treated to keep the leaves from falling off? p. 312.

### CHEMISTRY

How much Scotch is required to give whisky the desirable smoky taste? p. 312.

### CHEMISTRY—INVENTION

How do the Germans make gasoline from water-gas? p. 311.

### ENGINEERING

How much does use of Diesel buses save on fuel? p. 315.

### INVENTION

Into what sort of concrete can nails be driven? p. 313.

### MEDICINE

How can neutrons be used to cure cancer in mice? p. 315.

What effect has the removal of tonsils on susceptibility to infantile paralysis? p. 308.

What new kind of protection is being tried against infantile paralysis? p. 307.

What substance found in livers may lead to new understanding of cancer? p. 309.

### MEDICINE—PSYCHOLOGY

What is a better test of drunkenness in a driver than a measure of blood alcohol? p. 313.

### MILITARY SCIENCE

How would super-heavy tanks have to travel in the United States? p. 313.

Why may solid shot be used instead of shell against tanks? p. 316.

### NUTRITION

What new development makes it possible for the housewife to keep her own store of frozen foods? p. 314.

### PALEONTOLOGY

Where were the oldest wormholes discovered? p. 310.

### PHYSICS

Where has evidence been found for a fourth series of radioactive elements? p. 310.

### PHYSICS—FORESTRY

What new use has been found for the wind tunnel? p. 313.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What grafting operation has made it easier to study the sex cycle? p. 318.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

How long has the U. S. Department of Agriculture been battling bovine tuberculosis? p. 312.

A soap company is producing 17 varieties, to fit regions having water of varying degrees of hardness.

A fine collection of *moths*, which are attracted by airport lights, has been made by Austin McMahan, airport night watchman at Moncton, Canada.

A New York physician states that a young child's *appetite* naturally slumps when growth rate decreases in the second and third year.

China's military leaders are said to regard the war in their country as henceforth 30% military and 70% industrial.

A *polar bear*, says Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews, has partly webbed toes, and huge flat feet which serve both as paddles and snowshoes.

A British archaeologist finds alarming the extent to which defense measures have endangered or engulfed his country's ancient *earth monuments*.

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