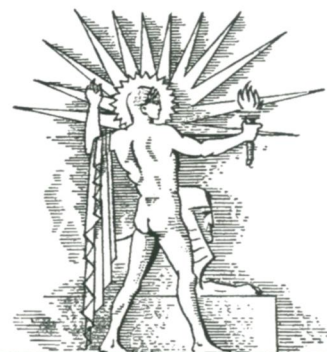
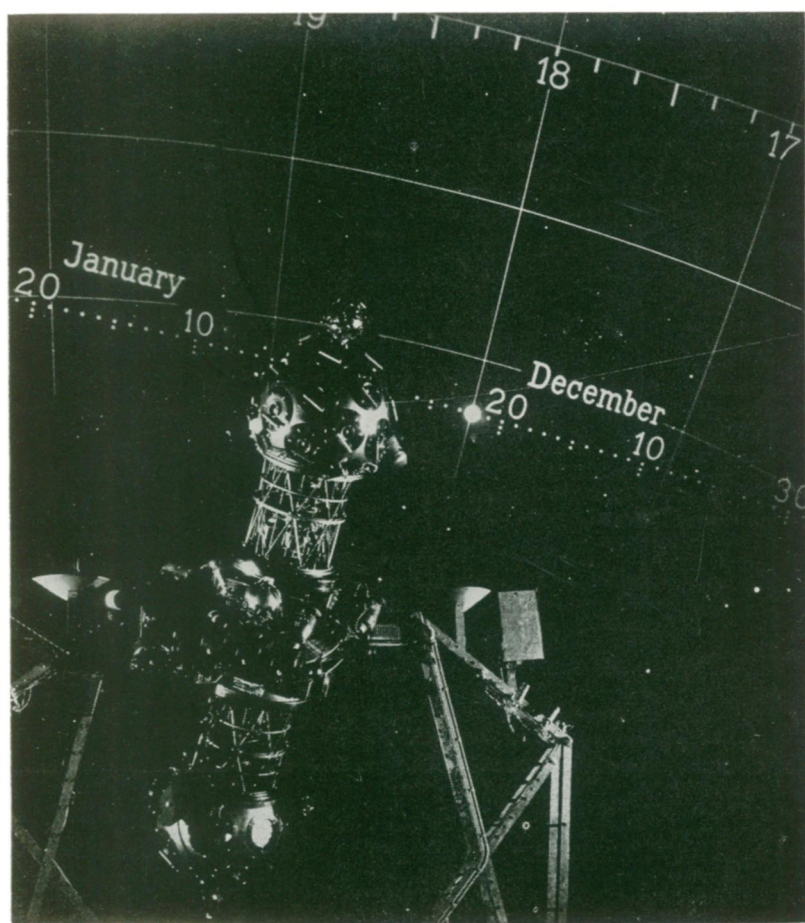


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SCIENCE REVIEW OF THE YEAR

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



December 21, 1940

New Season

See Page 393

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?

One-fifth of the world's land is *desert*.

*Sauerkraut* was a popular food of ancient Egypt.

*Poison ivy* berries are a favorite winter food of many birds.

*Red blood* corpuscles appear red only when massed together.

Australia is the only continent with no *international boundaries*.

Single *cotton fibers* are 1,200 to 4,000 times as long as they are thick.

Some of ancient Egypt's wide-bottom *bottles* resemble Erlenmeyer flasks.

All state *capitals*, except Boston, Mass., and Frankfort, Ky., showed population increases in the 1940 census.

## Christmas Meetings

Coming issues of the Science News Letter will contain reports by the Science Service staff of important end-of-the-year scientific meetings. These will include:

American Association for the Advancement of Science and affiliated societies, Philadelphia, Dec. 27-Jan. 2.

American Chemical Society, Physical and Inorganic Chemistry Symposium, New York, Dec. 30-Jan. 1.

American Chemical Society, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Symposium, Princeton, Dec. 30-Jan. 1.

Archaeological Institute of America, Baltimore, Dec. 26-28.

Geological Society of America and associated groups, Austin, Texas, Dec. 26-28.

American Historical Association and related groups, New York City, Dec. 27-28.

Society of American Bacteriologists, St. Louis, Dec. 27-29.

American Statistical Association and related groups, Chicago, Dec. 26-28.

American Economic Association, New Orleans, Dec. 27-30.

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 38 DECEMBER 21, 1940 No. 25

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years, \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

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Cable address: Scienservice, Washington.

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## 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

In what rare position have sunspots been observed? p. 392.

What astronomical task has been undertaken by Russian observatories? p. 392.

What may we expect to happen when the tail of Cunningham's Comet engulfs the earth? p. 396.

### BACTERIOLOGY

What very practical use has been found for the odors generally associated with heaven and with the nether regions? p. 393.

### CHEMISTRY

What is *prolon*? p. 393.

### CHEMISTRY-MEDICINE

Who is to be in charge of the new unit of the National Institute of Health for study of chemotherapy? p. 391.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

For what classes of scientists is deferment of military service requested? p. 397.

What are some of the ways that scientists have organized for defense? p. 390.

What leading French physicist was imprisoned? p. 392.

Why is scientific advance often accelerated in times of national stress? p. 394.

### MEDICINE

In what way does the new sulfa drug protect those who must have surgical operations on the alimentary canal? p. 391.

What finding has provided new hope for conquest of drug addiction? p. 392.

What new test will aid in predicting the course of anemia in a patient with jaundice? p. 392.

### NUTRITION

Why are the tenant farm children considered very valuable human resources of the United States? p. 393.

### PHYSICS

What obstacle to obtaining atomic power has now been removed? p. 394.

### PHYSIOLOGY

In what experiments was hope lost for the banishment of gray hair by a vitamin? p. 393.

What has been recently discovered about human growth in the very earliest stages? p. 395.

### ZOOLOGY

What did the "fossil snake" sent to the Smithsonian turn out to be? p. 392.

*Cottonseed cake* is being mixed with coal as locomotive fuel in Egypt.

The *library* of ancient Alexandria, Egypt, had nearly a million rolls of manuscript writings in its prime.

Egyptians enjoyed something resembling *fruit cake*, chemists judge by examining bread with fruit in it, made 3,500 years ago.

Substituting for Italian *olive oil* is a new American product in which corn oil blends with a little olive oil with good results.

*Darning eggs* that light up inside by a small electric bulb are new, for housewives abroad who darn socks during blackouts.

The British government has turned out several million pairs of small *ear plugs* for the public, to protect ear drums against war noise.

A *Christmas tree* will keep fresh and be less inflammable if the end of the trunk is cut off diagonally about an inch above the original cut and the tree then stands in a water-filled container.

office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have privilege of subscribing to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at \$3 a year.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Advertising rates on application. Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

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