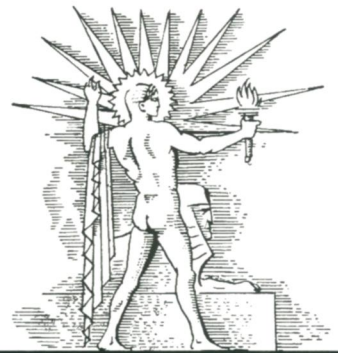
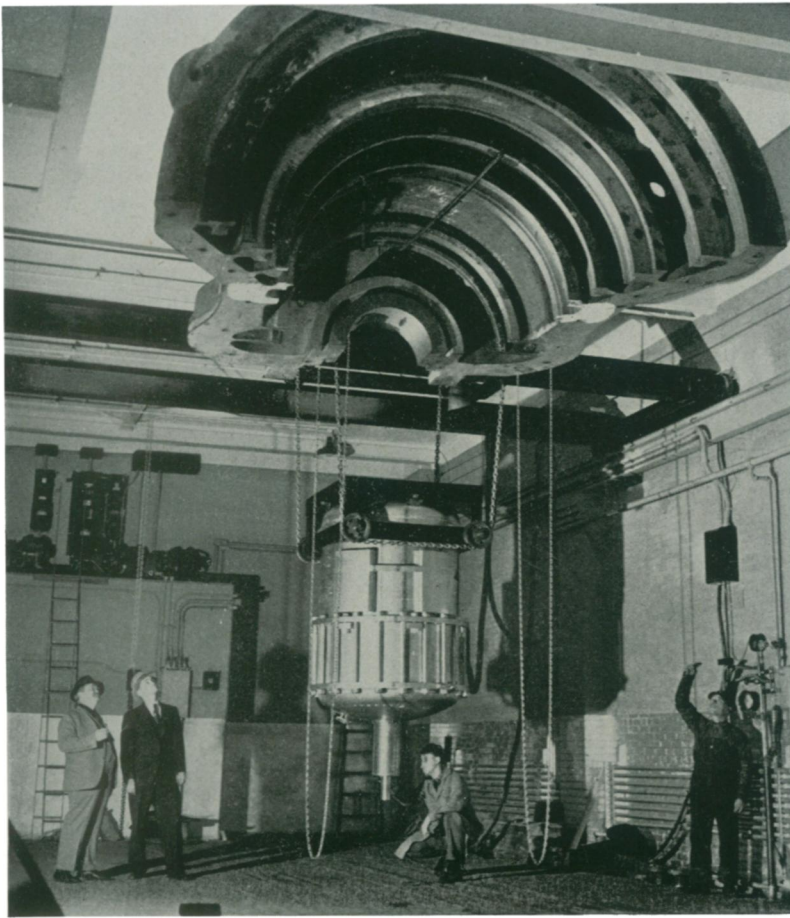


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



December 28, 1940

Giant X-Ray Unit

See Page 409

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

*Yucca* flower stalks may grow 11 inches in 24 hours.

The *boundary* between Alaska and Canada is 1,541 miles long.

Twins or larger multiple births are unknown among *fur seals*.

*Asbestos cloth*, well preserved, was found in the ashes of old Pompeii.

Plastics are providing new decorative effects for the sides of orchestra *drums*.

Starting a new *soap* factory or expanding an old one is now forbidden in Belgium.

Germany gets 40,000 tons of *edible fats* a year from coal—but “butter” from coal is expensive.

Japan's war problems include a shortage of *industrial salt*, and industrialists plan to make caustic soda from sea water.

New *color blindness* tests compiled for the U. S. Army make this country independent of foreign tests of this type.

Renewing old attempts to use wood products as *cattle feed*, Norway is to put 100,000 metric tons of chemical pulp to this use.

Farmers and city folks are becoming more and more alike, due to the process of *suburbanization*, says a Cornell University sociologist.

## 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

What gas, previously unknown in a comet, has been found in the Cunningham comet? p. 405.

What plans are being made to observe the September eclipse? p. 409.

Where should you look for Cunningham's Comet? p. 407.

### CHEMISTRY

What new compound is formed when aluminum chloride is dissolved in water? p. 411.

### DENTISTRY

What common chemical is expected to protect against tooth decay? p. 405.

### ENTOMOLOGY

What chemical protected by public patent is deadly to the codling moth but harmless to man? p. 406.

### GEOPHYSICS

What is the center of the earth like? p. 404.

### HISTORY

How did a hunger riot in 602 A.D. provide a clue to an ancient date for Christmas? p. 409.

### MEDICINE

What are the prospects for the world's quinine supply? p. 410.

### PHYSICS

How is it possible to “see” a lightless bombing plane flying through a dark sky? p. 406.

### PHYSIOLOGY

How much whisky could our great-grandfathers drink without harming their health? p. 408.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

How can three colors be recorded on two color films? p. 411.

### PHYSICS

How can fog be dissipated? p. 410.

It takes a *wild duck* 15 to 30 minutes to get dinner in a corn field mechanically picked.

A scientist classifies *ice* into six kinds, according to the amount of pressure producing each kind.

The first *reference library* in the modern sense was established in ancient Egypt, at Alexandria.

One *light* bulb of high wattage supplies more light than several small ones that total the same wattage.

A scientist sliced a loggerhead *sponge* and took a census of its tenants, finding 17,128 parasitic animals in the “hotel.”

*Loud sounds* such as cannon fire or volcanic explosions produce may be heard up to a distance of 300 miles.

In the search for new motor fuels, a Swedish scientist is trying a way of using crude *turpentine* in motors.

The metal-working industry of the United States has about 1,325,000 *machine tools* in use—an investment of billions of dollars.

A collection of 50,000 specimens of California *Indian culture*, ancient and modern, provides the University of California's anthropology museum with “the most extensive record of any culture in the world.”

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