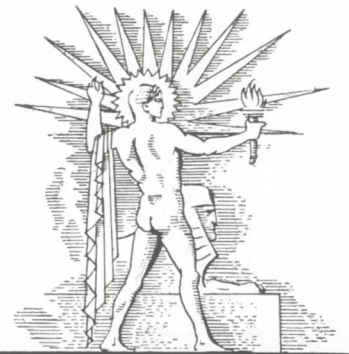


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



February 21, 1942

Steel Cutting Steel

See Page 121

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Hair grows about one half inch a month.

Vanilla is extracted from a member of the orchid family.

Water spiders can stay under water for hours or even days.

Ninety per cent of all women in this country use *face powder*.

The *skin* is a body organ—protects, regulates heat, eliminates waste.

Crushed ice containing as little as 0.1% *sodium nitrite* is proving effective in preserving fish.

Tampico fiber, known to housewives as scrub brush, may be used by the Army for mattress filler.

Sixteen Pennsylvania cities tore up enough abandoned *street car rails* to produce a dozen destroyers or two cruisers.

During factory tests airplane engines turn electric *generators* in the Ford Motor Company plant, conserve power formerly wasted.

At one time *coffee* was considered an intoxicant—its use was forbidden throughout the Ottoman Empire under penalty of death.

A mechanical *log chopper* in Savannah, Georgia, can cut a log six feet long and two feet in diameter into $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch chips in $2\frac{3}{4}$ seconds.

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

Of what use would the gold now in the U. S. Treasury be to war production? p. 121.

ENGINEERING

How can machine parts be built up to save metal for the war? p. 125.

How could a modified blackout be used to confuse the enemy? p. 123.

How was the cold steak problem mastered by industrial executives? p. 120.

What important engineering works were planned by George Washington? p. 118.

ENGINEERING-PHOTOGRAPHY

What new robot does the work of 307 expert technicians? p. 120.

ENTOMOLOGY

What new fumigant kills insects in stored grain and flour? p. 124.

GENERAL SCIENCE

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MEDICINE

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What simple new test with the hands detects a common wartime nerve injury? p. 122.

MEDICINE-NUTRITION

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METALLURGY

How can magnesium be extracted from dolomitic limestone? p. 126.

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PALEONTOLOGY

Where did the "terrible crocodile" once live? p. 122.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

What disease of cotton is prevented by soaking the seeds in water? p. 120.

PSYCHIATRY

If you worry about the war, what should you do? p. 119.

PSYCHOLOGY

What new mental disease is predicted for those addicted to radio listening? p. 123.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Why is a meningitis epidemic a possibility for the near future? p. 119.

RADIO

What is PM radio, and of what advantage is it in wartime? p. 117.

WILDLIFE

Why are fishermen now anxious to save the sharks? p. 120.

One 30-ton *tank* requires the steel of 500 refrigerators and the rubber of 87 average auto tires.

Unlike its experience during the last war, the United States this time will be able to produce all the *potash* it needs, according to the Department of the Interior.

Volunteer citizen defense workers in New York City are being trained by *television* at more than 100 viewing posts, under supervision of the Police Department.

Borneo is the world's third largest island, ranking next to Greenland and New Guinea.

Infants do not shed *tears* when they cry until several weeks after birth, when the tear apparatus begins to function, according to the Better Vision Institute of New York.

Injuries to the *eye* occur at the rate of 1,000 a day and cause an annual loss of \$200,000,000, says a report sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

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