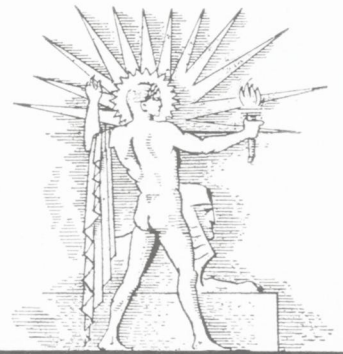
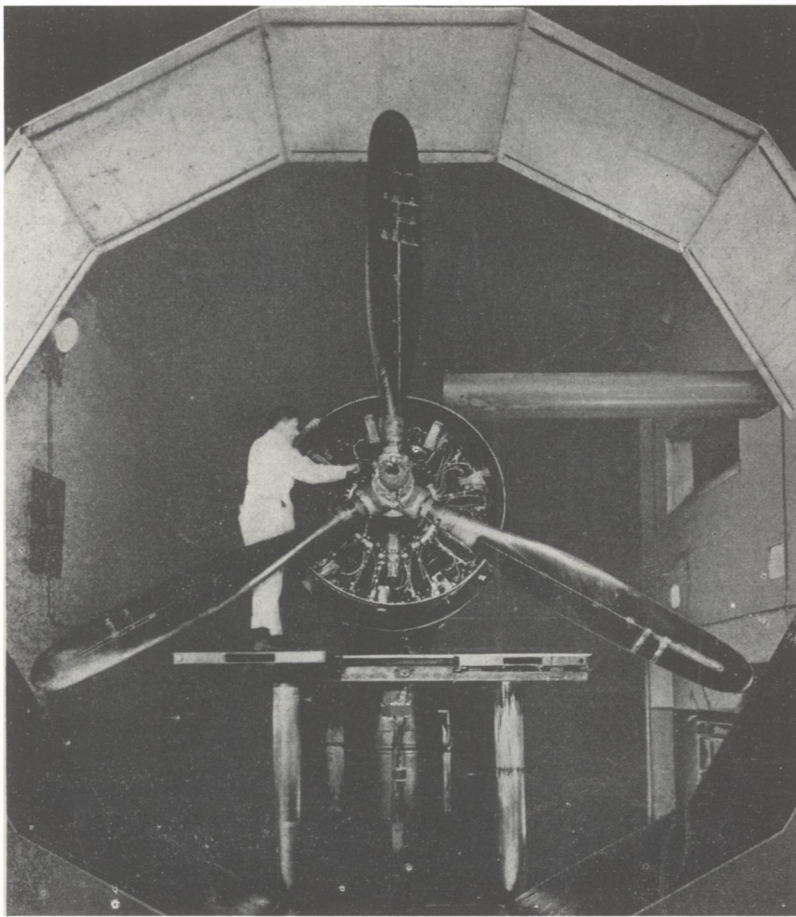


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



July 18, 1942

World's Biggest

See Page 43

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Only 60% of all pigs survive until marketing time to become part of the nation's food supply.

Grass clippings allowed to fall back on the ground soon decompose and return valuable fertility to the soil.

Litters from sows deficient in *vitamin A* have a high percentage of pigs with harelips, cleft palates, and similar defects.

Approaching tea shortage in the U. S. may be eased by use of a South American herb, yerba maté, which makes a tea-like brew.

A dehydrating process being developed by the Department of Agriculture will convert cheese to a flour-like form which when mixed with water will resemble processed cheeses.

Expansion and contraction of the wood makes it impossible to fill permanently cracks between floor boards in old houses, but sawdust and shellac make a good temporary filler.

A student of surveying has invented a "pathfinder," a true magnetic bearing finder, which can be made from two cardboard circles, a hatpin, an adhesive tape holder, and a cork stopper.

Very acid soils produce poorly because of the low level of available calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and potassium, and because activity of microorganisms, such as the nitrogen-fixing bacteria, is depressed.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

BIOLOGY

What new source for agar is being utilized? p. 40.

BOTANY

What does an injection of "bug juice" do to sugar cane stalks? p. 40.

What plant is the producer of most sneezes? p. 45.

CHEMISTRY

How can soybeans help out in the rubber shortage? p. 39.

DENTISTRY

What scientific meeting has been postponed for "duration"? p. 40.

What vitamin may be used in chewing gum to prevent tooth decay? p. 40.

ENGINEERING

What can be used to substitute for metal in water pipes? p. 35.

FORESTRY

What Japanese immigrant is welcome in this country? p. 41.

GEOLOGY

How many helium plants are there in the world? p. 40.

What can we learn from study of Russia's frozen expanses? p. 39.

INVENTION

What are some of the ideas of high school seniors on how science can help win the war? p. 38.

What recent patent would enable riflemen to correct their aim? p. 37.

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.

MEDICINE

What serious ill may result from use of extremely powerful sex hormones? p. 40.

METALLURGY

How is sponge iron made? p. 36.

MILITARY SCIENCE

Who proposed use of a "spaghetti shell" during the first World War? p. 38.

PHYSICS

Where is atomic fission similar to that of uranium 235 taking place? p. 46.

PHYSIOLOGY

What use may the hypnotic drugs be in combat? p. 35.

POPULATION

How well educated are America's draft soldiers? p. 41.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What danger is there that smallpox might increase in the United States? p. 38.

What is being done to protect health in wartime Washington? p. 35.

RESOURCES

What bottleneck is broken by glass that floats? p. 44.

What use will be made of the drippings you save and turn in? p. 44.

ZOOLOGY

What causes the natural "permanent wave" in muskrats? p. 41.

Shagreen, the dried skin of sharks, is used for polishing furniture.

Dry skim milk has all the food values of fresh milk except fat and vitamin A.

The 1942 *tung oil* crop in the United States is expected to be the largest in history.

One ounce of *gold* may be drawn into $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire.

The long white hairs of the *old man cactus* are really soft spines.

The average American *soldier* now weighs 152 pounds, while during the Civil War he weighed only 136 pounds.

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