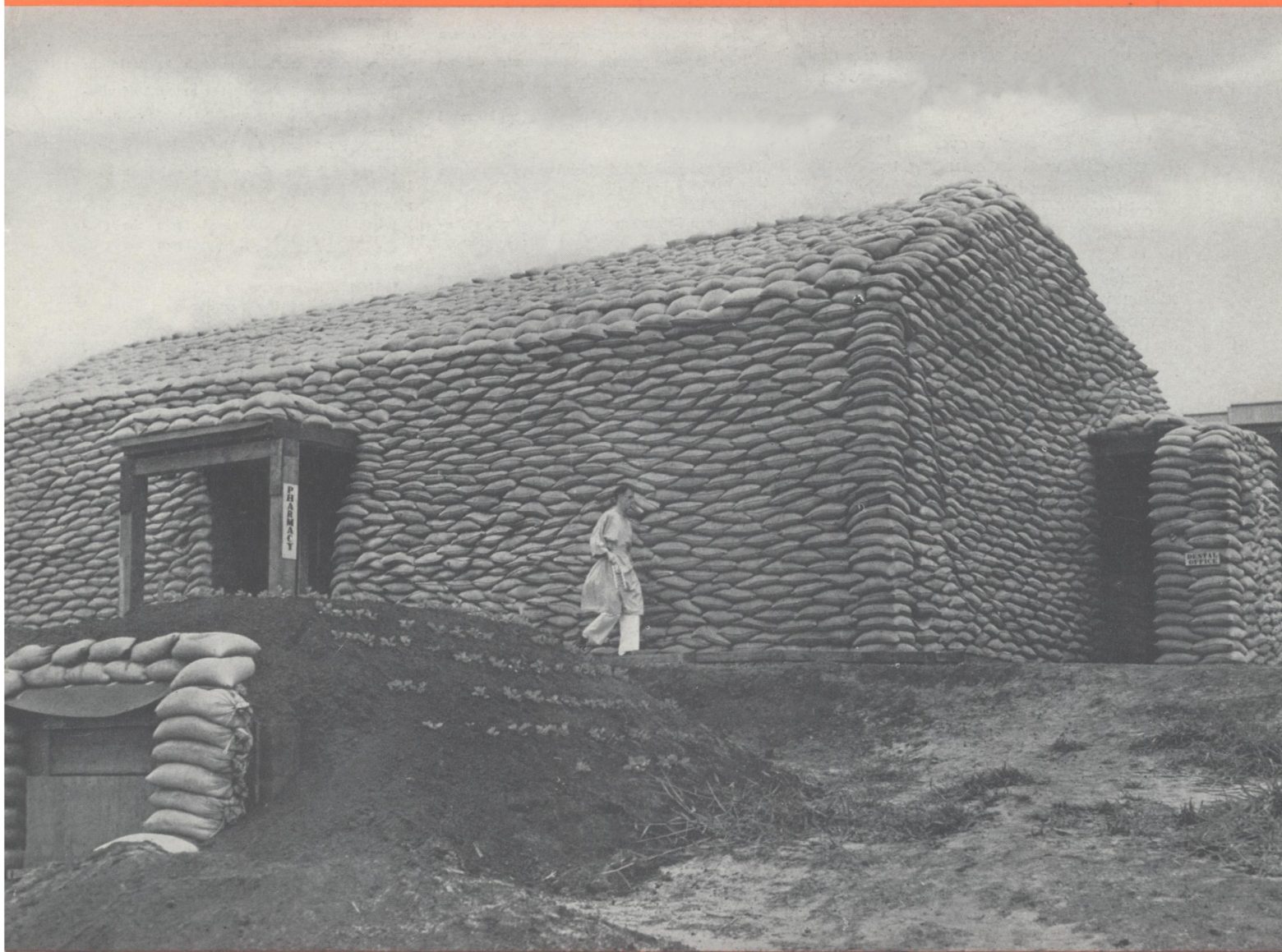


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • SEPTEMBER 19, 1942



Medicine, 1942

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A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

One-fourth of all *maple syrup* is used in tobacco manufacture.

Cut flowers, and particularly carnations, will wilt in the presence of apples because the fruit gives off ethylene gas.

Alaska's human population of 72,524 is scattered throughout the territory with a density of about one person to every eight square miles.

Early records of *cotton* cultivation, found in the ruins of an ancient city of India, show that the textile was grown and spun as early as 3,000 B.C.

Accuracy of "*electric eyes*," the photoelectric cells used in counting traffic, is seriously impaired during extremely hot or cold weather, unless the machines are insulated.

Mobile *service plants*, ranging from station wagons to ten-ton trucks, follow advancing units of America's airplanes on battle duty, ready to diagnose and repair airplane damage.

The extreme scarcity of *iodine* in Germany has resulted in numerous substitutes for this antiseptic, some of which are bromine compounds; the germicidal value of these substances has not been convincingly shown.

In the eighteenth century *scientists* began writing simply, for the lay public; Latin was abandoned by many scientific writers; and many children's books on physics, motion, water, fire, vision, and the like, ran into several editions.

Question Box

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CHEMISTRY

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ENGINEERING

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MEDICINE

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What test is recommended for flying personnel to determine whether they will black out in combat maneuvers? p. 181.

METEOROLOGY

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NUTRITION

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ORDNANCE

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PHARMACY

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PHYSICS

What explains the peculiar properties of rubber? p. 188.

PHYSIOLOGY

How does flying affect the kidneys? p. 184.

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.

Sphagnum moss has been used with excellent results as a surgical dressing material, being better than absorbent cotton for some types of dressing.

Bark patterns of some *fossil trees* show diamond-shaped scars left by fallen leaves; these scars continued to grow during the life of the tree, even though the leaves themselves had fallen.

A flock of 24 *hens* will produce a constant supply of fresh eggs and an occasional chicken dinner for a family of five.

"*Blackout rooms*," those to which the family will retire in case of air raids, should have emergency lighting, heat, water, food, medical supplies, recreational equipment, and fire-fighting apparatus.

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