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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • JANUARY 2, 1943



Gliders in War

See Page 7

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

The greatest number of *cactus* species grow in Mexico.

Terpineol, obtained from turpentine, has an odor resembling lilacs.

Only 1.5% of the *steel* production of 1943 will go into consumer products.

Research shows that if *cows* are fed and milked three times a day instead of twice, milk production will increase 10% to 25%.

Seventy-three new *standards* were set up in 1942 by the American Standards Association, and 49 existing standards were revised.

A recent survey reveals abundant *fish* resources in the Caribbean area, which could be used to increase U. S. food supplies.

The highest concentration of *carbon monoxide* in airplanes is found during descent, as this poisonous gas enters through cracks and openings in the wing section.

Peacetime prediction: Non-rust, flexible screens of *nylon*, in which a hole made by a sharp-pointed pencil can be closed merely by rubbing the fingers over the displaced strands.

American farmers are harvesting from 400 to 500 acres of *belladonna* this year, to replace supplies of this important drug plant formerly imported from central Europe.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

AGRICULTURE

For what purpose is it likely that fruit pits may be saved in this war? p. 15.

ASTRONOMY

How close will the new Whipple Comet be in January? p. 7.

How rapidly did Nova Puppis expand? p. 6.

Where was the periodic Comet Wolf I rediscovered? p. 7.

BIOLOGY

How has the sex of fruit flies been controlled? p. 5.

How tightly do clams "clam up"? p. 6.

CHEMISTRY

What new use has been found for TNT? p. 9.

ENTOMOLOGY

By what methods are dog flies being battled? p. 8.

FORESTRY

How do forestry experts hope to increase the production of turpentine and rosin for naval stores industry? p. 8.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How can the unpredictable happenings

within an atom affect the course of human history? p. 3.

How will the finding of scientists that effect does not always follow cause affect the habits of thought of men? p. 3.

What is ahead in science for 1943? p. 10.

MEDICINE

What help can be given an alcoholic to aid him in becoming a good soldier? p. 6.

METALLURGY

How can color be used to detect traces of metals? p. 9.

NUTRITION

How can the nutrition of war workers be improved? p. 8.

How is federally inspected horse meat marked? p. 5.

How can you test coffee for adulteration? p. 11.

What points should be kept in mind in shopping for meat when it is rationed? p. 9.

What method was used to discover how bacteria aid animals in digesting crude fibers? p. 8.

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.

Moderate exercise may increase the amount of *air* inhaled as much as 400%.

Scorpions cannot sting themselves to death, since they are immune to their own poison.

Ferrets, apparently susceptible to the common *cold*, make good subjects for research.

The "dazzle" *camouflaging* of ships is not done for disguise, but to deceive the periscope observer as to the ship's course.

If *formaldehyde* is made slightly alkaline, a mixture of sugars called formose is obtained.

For the first time since 1935 and the second time in history, the Hawaiian Board of Health recorded no deaths from *diphtheria* last year, in spite of the war.

The invention of *laminated* paper grew out of the knowledge that two sheets of wrapping paper, glued together, possess different qualities of strength and appearance than either possesses separately.

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