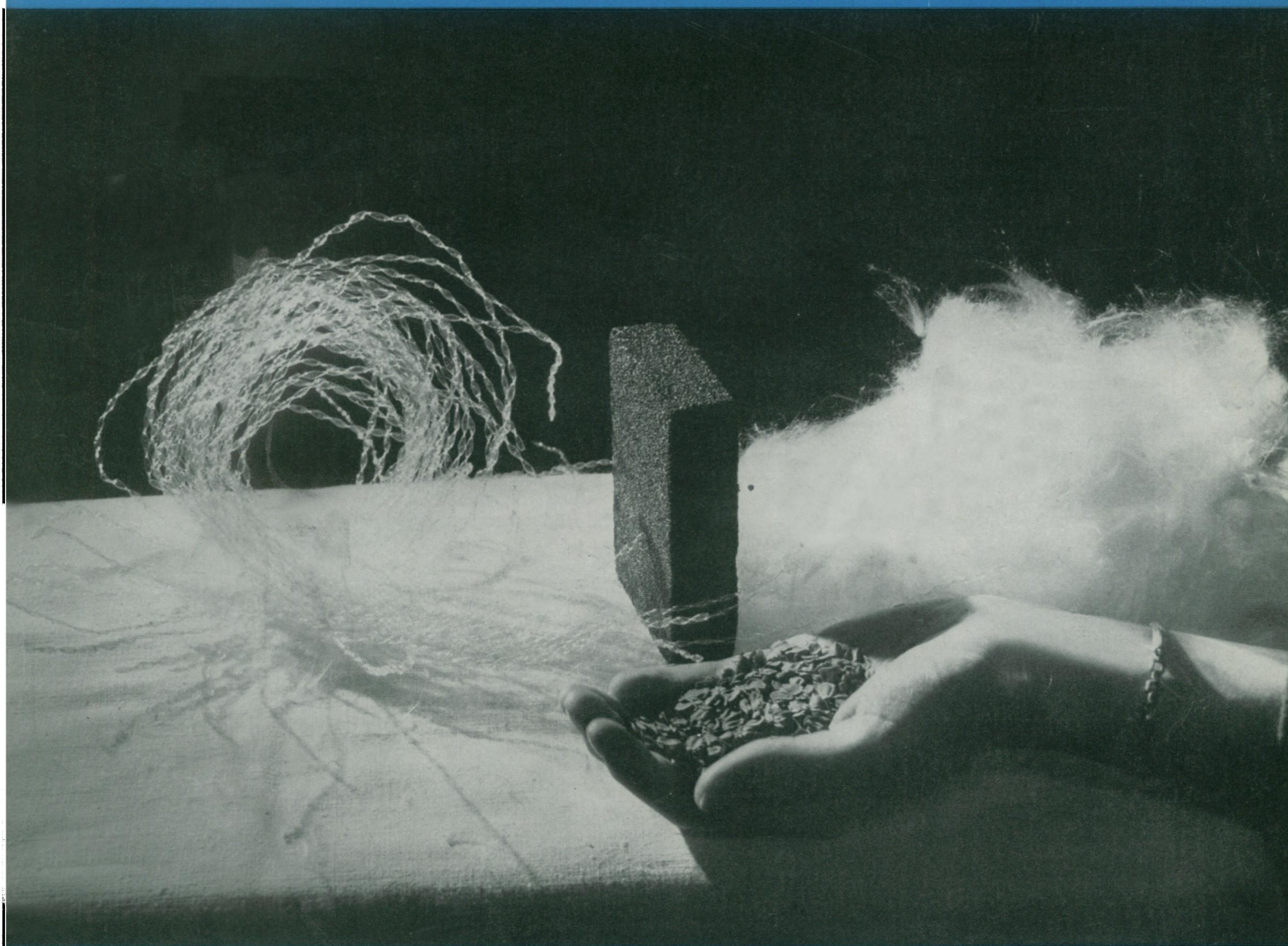


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE • FEBRUARY 20, 1943



To Keep 'Em Floating

See Page 122

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Rhubarb was used first as a medicine.

Brazil expects to produce 40,000 tons of *rubber* by the end of 1943 or early in 1944.

The "*English*" *walnut* originated in Persia and is America's principal tree nut producer.

Since many *insects* are attracted by the scent of nitrobenzine, it is frequently used as a bait for traps.

There are now 12 *flax mills* in Oregon, the most important fiber-flax state, an increase of eight in four years.

Nearly 900,000 tons of *sugar* were imported from Puerto Rico in 1942, an increase of 2,880 tons over 1941.

A synthetic rubber-coated shaft with magnetized metal bushings is used as a rotor in the fuel line to indicate the amount of *gas* being consumed by airplanes in flight.

Over 500,000 *scientists* and professional men and women are now catalogued by the government and more than 140,000 have been certified to agencies engaged in war work.

Soy bean plants from one acre may produce up to 200 pounds of "*soy wool*", fibers made from the bean after the oil has been extracted, which may be used in fabrics instead of wool from sheep.

Question Box

Page numbers of Questions discussed in this issue:

BOTANY

What gives coffee its wide appeal? p. 119.
Why was sugarcane pollen flown to Colombia? p. 120.

CHEMISTRY

How is chlorine made as a potash by-product? p. 120.

ENGINEERING

How is an electric weld's strength determined? p. 118.

How is industry eradicating the dust menace? p. 117.

What are the advantages of plastic for boat propeller shaft bearings? p. 120.

Why are captured British, American-made trucks being used by the Germans? p. 117.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How many honorable mentions were awarded in the Science Talent Search? p. 127.

GEOGRAPHY—METEOROLOGY

What sort of weather do they have in Tunisia? p. 125.

INVENTION

How can holes be shot at airplanes? p. 120.

Why is it an advantage to have a life preserver packed as a knapsack? p. 121.

MEDICINE

What can be substituted for plasma or whole blood transfusion in some cases of shock? p. 118.

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.

What is the cause and remedy for "shipyard eye"? p. 115.

METEOROLOGY

How may color charts aid the flyer? p. 120.

PHYSICS

What sort of extension of the technical training program has been recommended? p. 125.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

What has made spinach sick? p. 120.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

Why should the blossoming of tung trees be delayed? p. 121.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What disease may be a post-war plague? p. 117.

RESOURCES

From what part of the world is rubber being flown to this country? p. 116.

Of what materials can a ration-free shoe be made? p. 115.

TECHNOLOGY

What materials can now be used in place of cork to keep men afloat? p. 122.

WILDLIFE

How will the Army make use of reindeer? p. 124.

ZOOLOGY

What rodents share with songbirds the credit for destroying insects? p. 119.

Antimony, an important war metal used in hardening lead and other soft metals, is now obtainable only from South America.

Vision through *window screens* made of plastic wires is better than through the ordinary screen because the plastic wires are transparent.

Manganese ore running from 34% to 40% manganese is now being mined in western North Carolina and taken to Richmond, Va., for smelting.

Though *intelligence* in man is not related to the size of the brain, bright rats have brains larger than the average, and 25% more than the stupid ones.

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 43 FEBRUARY 20, 1943 No. 8

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C. North 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years, \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

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Call address: Scienservc, Washington.
New York office: 310 Fifth Avenue, CHickering 4-4565.

Entered as second class matter at the post-

office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

The Science Observer, established by the American Institute of the City of New York, is now included in the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N. Y. C., PENNSYLVANIA 6-5566; and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, STate 4439.

SCIENCE SERVICE is the Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

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