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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE

• APRIL 24, 1943



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A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Table scraps, garden waste, vegetable tops, and lawn clippings can be fed to the home flock of *chickens*.

Manganese sulfate applied to the soil in southern tung tree groves supplies an element needed by the trees.

Chemical *fertilizers* of certain kinds destroy animal life in the soil as well as supply nutrients to the crop.

The largest reported American *elm* tree in the United States is 30 feet in circumference; it is at Wethersfield, Conn.

American dark twist *tobacco* has long been chewed by natives in New Guinea, Solomon Islands and New Britain, and is sometimes used there as money.

Printing-press rolls of synthetic rubber are reported to be superior to natural rubber rolls because they are less subject to swelling and distortion from inks and cleaning mixtures.

New England commercial hook-and-line fishermen are reported to be using menhaden for *bait* instead of mackerel; menhaden is cheaper and not so much in demand for human food.

Fourteen hundred pounds of *cotton* yield 500 pounds of fiber for clothing and other uses, 140 pounds of table oil, 400 pounds of protein feed for cattle, 240 pounds of hulls for livestock roughage, and 80 pounds of linters for smokeless powder.

Question Box

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CHRONOLOGY

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ENGINEERING

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ENTOMOLOGY

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GENERAL SCIENCE

To whom were the Franklin medals awarded? p. 268.

MEDICINE

To whom was the first Charles L. Mayer Award given? p. 261.

What happened when two patients were given the new raw egg white and avidin treatment? p. 262.

What medicinal value has a drink of salt water? p. 259.

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PALEONTOLOGY

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PHYSICS

What are some of the advantages of the new fluorescent material made from zinc oxide and vanadium pentoxide? p. 263.

Where has a million-volt X-ray machine just been installed? p. 260.

PHYSIOLOGY

What change in blood pressure may be expected after the age of 40? p. 269.

What practical problem may the new theory of blood clotting aid in solving? p. 262.

PSYCHOLOGY

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What are some of the causes of absenteeism? p. 264.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How many cases of meningitis have occurred this year? p. 264.

What disease can you get from squirrels? p. 265.

What new occupational hazard affects workers in castor oil plants? p. 265.

ZOOLOGY

What sort of meat can you raise in your backyard? p. 266.

A heavy Army *bomber* flew nearly 12,000 miles from the United States to India in less than 68 hours.

Fats and oils from domestic materials will exceed 11 billion pounds in 1943, it is expected; this is 10% more than the 1942 production.

Gold production in the United States, including Alaska, was 135,113 fine ounces in January, 1943, a decrease of 57% from that of January, 1942.

A bushel of white *potatoes*, weight 60 pounds, when dehydrated weighs eight pounds.

The Ordnance Department of the Army is using *women* in more than 30 different occupations, from ballisticians to welders.

Glycerin has been extensively used as a carrying agent for medicines because it has excellent solvent properties and does not ferment.

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