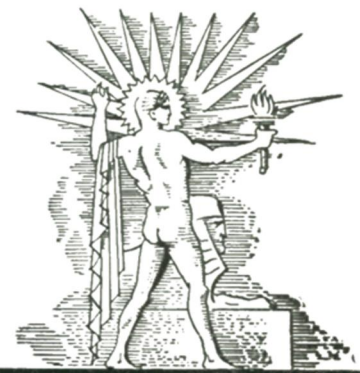


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



JANUARY 7, 1933

Elected to Presidency of A.A.S.

See Page 3

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## DO YOU KNOW THAT

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The greatest height reached by clouds in middle latitudes is about seven miles.

In a recent international comparison of the accuracy of time services, the U. S. Naval Observatory was rated the most accurate.

In the Morse telegraphic code, the lever is depressed for about one twenty-fourth of a second for a dot and three twenty-fourths for a dash.

To safeguard the Panama Canal against too much water in flood times and against too little in dry seasons, a special dam is being constructed.

Seeking wider usefulness for prunes, California scientists have devised a method of bottling prune juice, and have also made a prune breakfast cereal.

Student anthropologists at Harvard are given problems of excavating, in scientific fashion, bones and artifacts that have been planted in the earth in a "site" in the museum basement.

Some of the Egyptian linen found in old tombs is much finer than fine linen of today.

New help for cotton planters is an attachment which distributes seed at various depths in the row.

During the past 30 years, 900 makes of automobiles have been offered to the American public; today there are approximately 50.

The United States now has direct telephone connection with six South American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Firemen are not the only ones to use tall ladders; archaeologists in the Near East have found an extension ladder useful in photographing ruins from above.

Woolly-finger grass, brought from South Africa, is being tested by Government scientists as a pasture plant for hilly lands of Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

Curiosity arousing questions for the teacher and general reader. Book references in italic type are not sources of information of the article, but are references for further reading. Books cited can be supplied by Librarian, Science Service, at publisher's price, prepaid in U. S.

### ASTRONOMY

Can Mars be seen during the early evening in January? p. 10.

How many Be-type stars are there? p. 7.

How much is it thought that distance to Europe varies? p. 14.

### CHEMISTRY

How heavy is the world's heaviest water? p. 8.

### COSMOGONY

Is the earth older than the moon? p. 9.

When will the universe contract? p. 4. *The Universe Around Us—Sir James Jeans—Macmillan, 1931, \$4.50.*

### ENTOMOLOGY

Will blood of all species of insects coagulate? p. 9.

### GEOLOGY

When was the first known ice age? p. 8. *Ice Ages Recent and Ancient—A. P. Coleman—Macmillan, 1926, \$4.*

### MEDICINE

How did scientists learn the shape of germs they cannot see? p. 9.

How may distemper be prevented? p. 7.

### NUTRITION

Is it necessary for civilized babies to lose weight just after birth? p. 3.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

What old photographic process has been improved to make sharp enlargements? p. 8. *The Chemistry of Photography—Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, 1932, 50c.*

### PHYSICS

What different energies do Dr. Millikan and Dr. Anderson attribute to cosmic rays? p. 6.

Which is the halogen whose activity with hydrogen is wrongly described in chemistry textbooks? p. 5.

Why do the stars keep shining? p. 3.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What does the eye-stalk hormone do? p. 12.

### PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

What length X-ray dose seems best for plants? p. 7.

How may dead plant roots be made to drink as much water as living roots? p. 8.

How much carbon monoxide is needed to make plants form new roots? p. 9.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Is diphtheria a greater hazard than smallpox? p. 9.

What impurity in drinking water causes mottled enamel of the teeth? p. 11.

What section of the country will feel the "flu" epidemic last? p. 8.

### ZOOLOGY

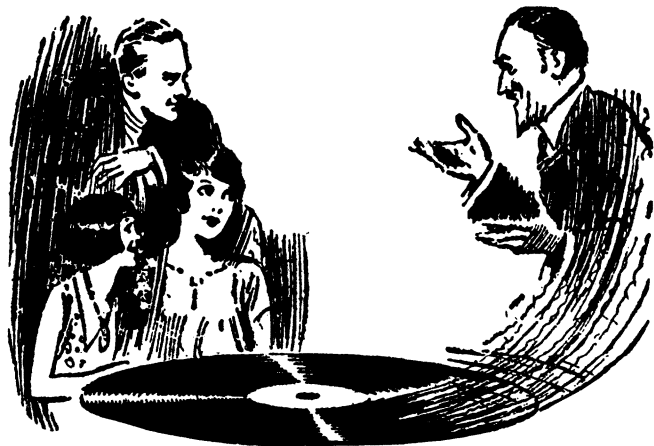
What do sea-cows eat? p. 14.

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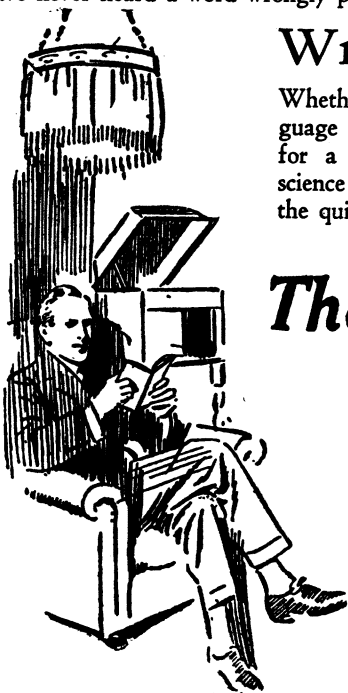
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