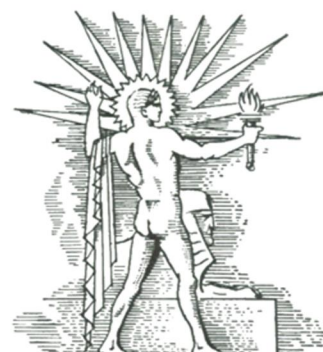


PRICE  
15¢

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



FEBRUARY 25, 1933

Adam, Eve and the Serpent

See Page 118

A

SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XXIII

No. 620

The Weekly  Current  
Summary of Science

Published by

## SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

Subscription rates—\$5.00 a year postpaid; 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.

In requesting change of address, please give old as well as new address.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

### Board of Trustees of Science Service

*Honorary President*, William E. Ritter, University of California. Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, J. McKeen Cattell, *President*, Editor, Science, Garrison, N. Y.; Burton E. Livingston, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Raymond Pearl, Director, Institute for Biological Research, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. Representing the National Academy of Sciences, W. H. Howell, *Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee*, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; David White, Senior Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey. Representing National Research Council, Vernon Kellogg, Secretary Emeritus, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe, Editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Representing Journalistic Profession, John H. Finley, Associate Editor, New York Times; Mark Sullivan, Writer, Washington, D. C.; Marlen E. Pew, Editor of Editor and Publisher, New York City. Representing E. W. Scripps Estate, Harry L. Smithton, *Treasurer*, Cincinnati, Ohio; Robert P. Scripps, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, West Chester, Ohio; Thomas L. Sidlo, Cleveland, Ohio.

### Staff of Science Service

Managing Editor, Watson Davis; Staff writers: Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, J. W. Young; Librarian, Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

Copyright, 1933, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited since it is distributed for personal, school, club or library use only. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service, details and samples of which will gladly be sent on request.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have the privilege of subscribing to the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at the reduced price of \$3 per year. Application for this privilege should be accompanied by privilege card obtained from the Permanent Secretary, A. A. S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Publication Office, 1930 Clifton Ave., Baltimore, Md., Editorial and Executive Office, Constitution Ave. at 21st St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Address all communications to Washington, D. C. Cable address: Scienservice, Washington.

Entered as second class matter October 1, 1926, at the post-office at Baltimore, Md., under the act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trade-mark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices.

## DO YOU KNOW?

South China will have air-conditioned trains during the summer, if present plans develop.

A new analyzing device detects magnetic impurities in asbestos, mica, glass, sands and other materials.

In New Zealand, where blackberry bushes are real plant pests, there is one bush said to be 250 miles long.

New York City had visitors from the Arctic Circle this winter: numbers of dovebies, also known as ice-birds and Greenland doves.

In the fourteenth century B. C., a Mycenaean fortress stood on the site which was to become the famous Acropolis of Athens.

A statistician finds evidence that men past middle life who are overweight succumb to cancer more readily than men of normal weight.

The "eight and ten hour plan" for special nurses in hospitals is being tried out in some Ohio districts: a patient may engage a nurse at 50 cents an hour for eight, nine, or ten hours a day.

Dogs were among the animals used by the Romans in arena combats.

The American Iris Society recently published ratings for 1,400 irises, mostly new ones.

A physician reports that an eyebrow pencil is best for marking test tubes and X-ray films.

Experiments to produce a cheap motor fuel from wood are making progress in Czechoslovakia.

In the steel industry it is found that workers who are subjected to extreme heat and humidity have higher death rates from pneumonia than the other workers.

By improving the ration of sheep, experiments showed that the wool produced was 172 per cent. longer, 206 per cent. stronger, and fuller in texture.

In 1932, New York City had 111 fewer suicides than in 1931, a fact which has been attributed partly to the presidential election—the natural human desire not to miss anything.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

### ANTHROPOLOGY

Is the Dawn Man of Pildown an "Anthropus," an ape or a man? p. 121.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

What is the oldest established date in American history? p. 115.

What is the oldest known city in the world? p. 118. *The Bible, an American Translation—Univ. of Chicago Press, 1931, \$3.50.*

### ASTRONOMY

Where is the Peltier comet? p. 124.

### BOTANY

What is the earliest tree to flower in the spring? p. 126.

### CHEMISTRY

Are the two new isotopes of mercury abundant? p. 120.

Is an alcohol-gasoline mixture more powerful than straight gasoline? p. 116. *Petroleum and its Products—William A. Gruse—McGraw-Hill, 1928, \$4.50.*

What two elements have been given new atomic weights in the 1933 table? p. 116.

### ECONOMICS

What does Prof. Soddy call Virtual Wealth? p. 125.

### GEOGRAPHY

Where is the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere? p. 119. *Death Valley, the Facts—W. A. Chalfant—Stanford Univ. Press, 1930, \$3.50.*

### MEDICINE

Do cancer cells have larger nuclei than normal cells? p. 117.

What is 1:2-benzpyrene? p. 120.

In what organ of typhoid carriers do the bacilli lurk? p. 115.

### MINING

What development has assured the supply of phosphate for several hundred years? p. 117.

### PHYSICS

How long does a positron exist? p. 115. *The Interpretation of the Atom—Frederick Soddy—Putnam, 1932, \$5.*

What are the most concentrated blasts of energy ever seen? p. 120.

What will the kampfometer be used for? p. 121.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What new physical instrument is used to record heart beats? p. 120.

### PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

When do wheat plants work fastest? p. 120.

### PSYCHOLOGY

Can many concerns afford to survey employee attitudes now? p. 116.

### SURGERY

How may those with paralyzed faces be given expressions? p. 124.

*These curiosity-arousing questions will be especially valuable to the teacher. 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 publishers' prices, prepaid in U. S.*