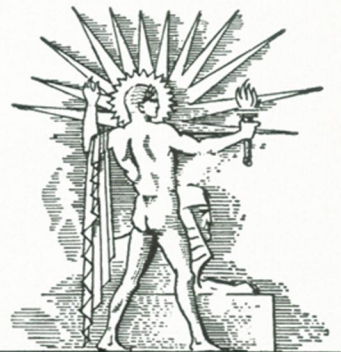


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THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



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DO YOU KNOW?

The wings of a common house fly vibrate 330 times a second.

About half the insects of the world are harmful to man, and the other half render him a service.

Sixteenth century apothecaries made oil out of earthworms as a rubbing remedy for rheumatism.

It is predicted that dental fillings of the future will be non-metallic, chemically inert, and natural-looking.

A new commercial process for canning tomato juice is reported to be simple and to result in no loss of Vitamin C.

Paris has a house made of translucent glass three inches thick, the walls of which are cleaned by an automatic sprinkler system.

A nutritionist points out that, while rhubarb is scientifically classed as a vegetable, it is very properly used as a fruit in balancing the diet.

Sulfuric acid, cheapest and most important acid in the chemical industry, may be replaced in its distinction by phosphoric acid made by a new process.

If man could jump as far in comparison to his own weight as a California flea, he could reach the moon in ten jumps.

Gold crystals, the rarest form of gold, have been placed on exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Both ultraviolet rays and infra-red rays pass through porous fabrics such as wool more easily than through other materials.

Archaeologists exploring the old market place of Athens found in two months 7,600 coins, many of them lost in dirt floors of the ancient city.

The "greatest river in the world" is a counter equatorial current in the Pacific which flows about ten degrees north and parallel to the equator.

Four crested rats, the first ever exhibited in captivity, have come to the London Zoo from Kenya, and a single young one has been born there.

Workers should not live more than three or four miles from their work, says an economist who studied accounts of 267 families who moved outside a city to save money.

WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

ARCHAEOLOGY

Where did idols wear polka-dot trousers? p. 31.

ASTRONOMY

Can life exist on Mars? p. 27. *Astronomy—Forest Ray Moulton—Macmillan, 1931, \$3.75.*

Where will America's third Planetarium be located? p. 29.

BACTERIOLOGY

What causes decay of stone? p. 20.

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How large is the world's oldest tree? p. 21.

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ETHNOLOGY

Where did the southern negroes get their peculiarities of speech? p. 29.

EVOLUTION

When was the earth's first depression? p. 22. *Plant Life Through the Ages—A. C. Seward—Macmillan, 1931, \$10.00.*

GENERAL SCIENCE

How has the "New Deal" affected scientific work at the National Bureau of Standards? p. 31.

HEREDITY

How large is a gene? p. 24.

METEOROLOGY

Can study of the sun aid in forecasting the earth's weather? p. 25. *World Weather—Henry Helm Clayton—Macmillan, 1923, \$4.*

PALEONTOLOGY

What type of diet did a dinosaur eat? p. 19. *Paleontology—Edward Wilber Berry—McGraw-Hill, 1929, \$3.50.*

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For whom may the new-found positive electron be named? p. 24.

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How does vitamin A prevent stomach ulcers? p. 20.

PSYCHOLOGY

How does punishment tend to break up the family? p. 28.

These curiosity-arousing questions show at a glance the wide field of scientific activity from which this week's news comes. 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 Book Dept., Science News Letter, at publishers' prices, prepaid in the United States.