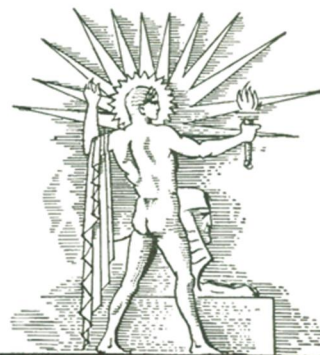


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE



AUGUST 12, 1933

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See Page 109

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## DO YOU KNOW?

Whales are fully grown at six to eight years, though they may live to the ripe old age of 20 years.

The disease beri-beri, caused by deficiencies in diet, is the cause of 17,000 deaths in Japan each year.

A scientist in a zoological laboratory reports seeing a cottonmouth moccasin bite a rattlesnake, and says that the rattler died three days later.

Ninety-two per cent. of the world's big cities—with over 100,000 population—are in the northern hemisphere.

In the ninth century, the Emperor Charlemagne commanded his people to grow certain herbs and vegetables in their gardens.

Diseases of ductless glands sometimes cause the bones to soften, and one such case is reported of a man who broke his leg while sneezing.

It is reported that an enamel made of rubber is being developed as a protective coating for the under side of airplane wings.

A record-breaking black bear killed in Pennsylvania last year weighed about 650 pounds when alive.

The markets of the Emperor Trajan, recently unearthed in Rome, will be the scene of an Italian government poultry show this autumn.

Poison ivy is so very poisonous that a doctor found that one-sixty-thousandth of a grain dissolved in olive oil and rubbed on the skin would cause mild poisoning.

Statisticians find that the death rate from accidents in the home is declining so far as children are concerned, but is steadily rising for adults.

Golden snow, seen on the mountains of Glacier National Park in late winter, is due to tiny yellow insects which blanket the snow for a brief time.

Tapeworms from Baltic Sea countries are reported to have spread to the Great Lakes region, where they infest the fish, and endanger human beings who eat the infested fish raw or inadequately cooked.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

### AERONAUTICS

Why does sky-writing not smear 20,000 feet up? p. 101.

### ANTHROPOLOGY

How is the existence of a new racial type in America to be proved or disproved? p. 99.

### ASTRONOMY

At what height are falling stars brightest? p. 104.

### BIOLOGY

Can doped clams be restored? p. 105.

### CHEMISTRY

What method of heating does the blast furnace replace in the production of phosphoric acid? p. 99.

Who has developed a cheaper method of zinc plating? p. 107.

### ENGINEERING

How much energy used by the world is human energy? p. 108.

What is remarkable about the new U. S. submarine *Cachalot*? p. 111.

When were intracoastal waters of the Atlantic seaboard last surveyed? p. 110.

Where is sea wall design being studied in miniature? p. 101.

Why have rivets been used hot? p. 105.

### ENTOMOLOGY

From what distance will an artificial love potion attract gipsy moths? p. 105. *The Insect Menace*—L. O. Howard—Century, 1931, \$3.00.

How small is the chalcis fly? p. 111.

### EXPLORATION

Where are the Tristan da Cunha islands? p. 108.

### FORESTRY

Do forests and brush "conserve the water supply?" p. 107.

How many tank-truck fire-fighting units are in California? p. 111.

### HYGIENE

What relieves heat cramps in miners? p. 106. *Why the Weather*—C. F. Brooks—Harcourt Brace, 1924, \$2.

### ICHTHYOLOGY

What fish "walks on its tail?" p. 100.

### MEDICINE

At what age is stomach acidity most common? p. 109.

How does removal of the thyroid gland relieve an overworked heart? p. 101.

What is the "artificial heart" for use in blood transfusions? p. 105.

### PHYSICS

Ions of what element were used in the production of positive X-rays? p. 99. *X-Ray Technology*—H. M. Terrill and C. T. Ulrey—Van Nostrand, 1930, \$4.50.

### PLANT PATHOLOGY

How may Dutch elm disease be detected? p. 104.

### PSYCHOLOGY

Do neurotic tendencies affect success? p. 100. *How and Why of Human Behavior*—George A. Dorsey—Harper, 1929, \$3.50.

### SEISMOLOGY

How much was a Los Angeles street widened by the March 10 earthquake? p. 104.

*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.*