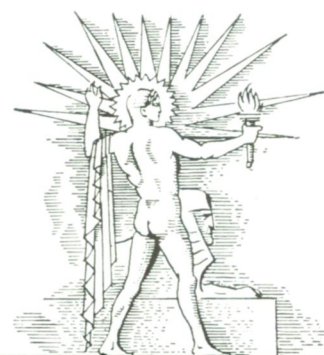


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



January 11, 1941

New President, A.A.A.S.

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A S C I E N C E S E R V I C E P U B L I C A T I O N

Do You Know?

A new tile-like hollow block is made of *plastic*.

Frozen hams cure more rapidly than unfrozen ones.

When hatched, a *baby ostrich* is no bigger than a chicken.

Shells of *cashew nuts* contain oil that has industrial possibilities.

There are more than 100 kinds of *small mammals* in the northeastern United States.

Man's earliest *mining* work was done in the Stone Age, to obtain flint for making implements.

The American woodcock lives mainly on an *earthworm* diet, and seems to have no substitute foods.

Only four groves are left of the Phoenicians' famous and extensive forests of *cedars of Lebanon*.

A new British *oil refinery* underground will turn out about 30,000 barrels of petroleum products daily.

An airplane with *glass wings* is a new experiment—the wings being covered with woven glass fabric, highly fire-resistant and strong.

A female *Black Widow* spider, says a government naturalist, eats her mate just because she is hungry and cannot find other food.

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS ISSUE

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

ARCHAEOLOGY

How did scientists succeed in taking a mummy apart and keeping its exterior as it was? p. 25.

ASTRONOMY

What makes some stars egg-shaped? p. 23.
What newly found force is 200 times that of gravity? p. 31.

BACTERIOLOGY

How can ultraviolet light be used to detect diseased seed potatoes? p. 24.

How have scientists "watched" chemical action with a germ? p. 23.

BIOLOGY

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What happens to the protoplasm of your cells when you drift into unconsciousness under anesthesia? p. 25.

What is America's newest scientific society? p. 22.

CHEMISTRY

How did scientists "see" the fibers in soap? p. 24.

ENTOMOLOGY—BOTANY

How can plants be made to protect themselves against insects? p. 21.

GENERAL SCIENCE

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Why should the United States have submarine bases in Greenland? p. 30.

Why should you be reminded of the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science when you switch on your electric lights? p. 21.

GEOGRAPHY

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LANGUAGE

What will Indians of the future owe to the Boy Scouts? p. 25.

MEDICINE

How can the X-ray be used to detect cancer of the pancreas? p. 24.

METEOROLOGY

What is "graupel"? p. 31.

NUTRITION

What new ingredients in bread will give Americans strength for defense? p. 26.

PHYSIOLOGY

What does alcohol do to the vitamin content of the blood? p. 19.

What is probably the most sensitive of all biological systems? p. 20.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

How can "birth control" for apples be practiced? p. 24.

What is necessary in order that plant roots may take up nutrients? p. 19.

What is the advantage of "aeroculture"? p. 20.

What possible harm may be done to trees by 17-year cicadas? p. 20.

PSYCHOLOGY

What is considered most important for America's defense? p. 22.

Practical problems of producing *quinine* in the Western Hemisphere are being studied at Puerto Rico's agricultural station.

A 10,000-watt *mercury vapor lamp* developed experimentally at Westinghouse Lamp Laboratories has one-fifth the brightness of the sun's surface.

Cornell University is to have a new \$150,000 *laboratory* mainly for research on problems of high-voltage transmission.

A *sneeze* may be caused either by irritation of nerve-endings in the nose lining, or by stimulating the optic nerve by a bright light.

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 39 JANUARY 11, 1941 No. 2

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; 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.

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Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the post-

office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have privilege of subscribing to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at \$3 a year.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Advertising rates on application. Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

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