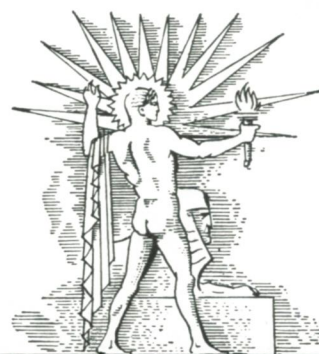


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



September 6, 1941

Synthetic Weather

See Page 151

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?

Cactus fiber is now used in padding upholstery of some motor cars.

Highest of high hats are feathered ceremonial masks worn by men in New Guinea—14 to 19 feet high.

To construct *Howard Field*, the Army's newest airfield in Panama, 10,000 acres of jungle have been cleared.

The extent and effect of Chicago's *lake breezes* will be investigated at the University of Chicago's Institute of Meteorology.

Very heavy rains in the Southwest last winter supplied cactus plants with enough moisture to last through three years of drought.

A new government plant to produce maps for national defense use from air photographs is being established in Virginia, near Washington.

A Canadian stationmaster has found good use for rice thrown at weddings—he sweeps it up, sorts out the confetti and feeds the rice to birds.

The United States plans to stock up on *castor* bean seed adapted to growing in this country, in case industries require more of the drying castor oil.

Over one-eighth of the *fuel oil* used in heating a home can be saved by properly adjusting the burner with an instrument called a flue gas analyzer, says the Department of Agriculture.

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.

ASTRONOMY

Who discovered the new comet? p. 152.

BIOLOGY—PHYSICS

What new instrument kills bacteria and bacteriophage? p. 156.

BOTANY

From what shrub can the Germans get gutta-percha? p. 149.

CHEMISTRY

For what uses is the new plastic made from cottonseed hulls suitable? p. 158.

ENTOMOLOGY

How can you build a simple trap for silverfish? p. 158.

FORESTRY

What sort of screen aids in detecting forest fires? p. 153.

GENERAL SCIENCE

What are scientists doing to aid defense? p. 154.

INVENTION

What can you use in place of snow for summer skiing? p. 150.

MEDICINE

Why should blood not be kept too long in blood banks? p. 148.

To what is pitchers' "lame wing" due? p. 157.

NUTRITION

What new fashion in foods has been set by soldiers? p. 153.

ORNITHOLOGY

How can pheasants be induced to lay eggs early? p. 152.

PSYCHIATRY

What sort of illness affects patients in half the military hospital beds? p. 148.

Why should you be cautious about submitting to the operation said to "cut worry from the brain"? p. 157.

PSYCHOLOGY

At what age is a philosopher to have his deepest insight? p. 147.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What plans are being made for a campaign against plague? p. 149.

Where is infantile paralysis rapidly increasing? p. 151.

RESOURCES

From what source is magnesium now obtained? p. 150.

SEISMOLOGY

How can the risks of earthquakes be lessened? p. 156.

ZOOLOGY

Why are Arctic reindeer healthier than domestic cattle? p. 148.

ZOOLOGY—ARCHAEOLOGY

What sort of meat did Iraq's earliest inhabitants like? p. 156.

Russia's river *transportation* is handicapped by the fact that so many waterways run north-south, whereas heaviest traffic is east-west.

"Early Norse and medieval vessels," says the Franklin Institute, "had one steering oar on the right side of the boat, and this came to be known as the steering side, steering board, and later *starboard*."

Pennsylvania State College is using a *chemistry laboratory* on wheels to travel to centers in the state where the College is training high school graduates for technical defense jobs.

To increase *visibility* of dark cellar steps, paint experts suggest a border of white paint around the edge of each step, and a solid white coat for the last one.

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