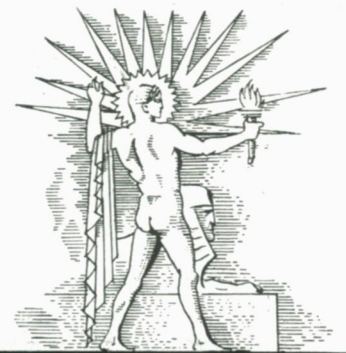


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



October 25, 1941

For Happy Landings

See Page 264

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

Tests indicate that airplanes can be used to sow grass seed on rough land.

To deliver frozen foods to homes, one company has designed a special truck with sub-zero food compartments.

Greeks of Sybaris in the sixth century B. C. had a *patent* system: a cook who invented an unusual dish had a monopoly for a year.

Competent truck drivers are as scarce as aluminum, says a safety engineer, and for the same reason—metal and men are in defense work.

With possible exception of the tortoise, man probably has a longer life expectancy than any other animal known, says a government scientist.

A Shanghai firm claims to have the only process in use for removing color from silk threads in old stockings, and this process takes five months.

Gasoline service stations were recently surprised by a request for free air for fish, when a tank-truck of fish from the New York Aquarium was en route to Boston Aquarium and required fresh air in the tanks every two hours.

Mountain sheep, says a writer in the magazine *Fauna*, have good brakes: their long, narrow hooves are hollow cupped with sharp edges and near the heel is a pliable, rubbery substance that prevents skidding and provides quick stops.

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.

ANTHROPOLOGY

What use did ancient Americans make of skulls? p. 264.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Where is a pirate city being explored by scientists? p. 265.

ASTRONOMY

What are the bright planets visible in the November evening skies? p. 266.

BOTANY

How is radioactive carbon penetrating the secrets of photosynthesis? p. 268.

CHEMISTRY—AGRICULTURE

What test reveals whether soil has ever been used for farming? p. 264.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How can you ward off mental old age? p. 261.

What disease is a disease of fat as diabetes is of sugar? pg. 261.

What new movement is spreading interest in science? p. 262.

Which of the sun's rays cause cancer? p. 268.

INVENTION

Why is it considered an advantage for an airplane to have a tail that lifts? p. 267.

MEDICINE

How can you get a list of all Japanese medical journals? p. 264.

MEDICINE—ENTOMOLOGY

How is the Army battling against chigger blitzes? p. 265

MEDICINE—PUBLIC HEALTH

How have the chances of protection from influenza been improved? p. 260.

How is it possible that cancer may be checked by diet? p. 259

What harm do mouthwashes do? p. 260.

What insect carries infantile paralysis? p. 259.

What simple test detects intoxication from toluene fumes? p. 259.

What treatment of fabric protects against infection? p. 260.

PHYSIOLOGY—PSYCHOLOGY

How quickly can a vitamin A deficiency affect your night vision? p. 265.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How extensive are the blood and plasma banks in England? p. 271.

What sort of vaccinations have been ordered for all Canadian Air Force personnel? p. 264.

The most contagious of all known diseases is the common cold.

About 20,000 Army and Navy aviators are being taught Spanish by WPA language teachers, stressing a 600 word vocabulary.

Discovering that the type of sunshine in a Michigan locality did not produce profitable sugar content in sugar beets, one company moved to Idaho where solar radiation was more favorable to this crop.

Switzerland is attempting to obtain oil for food and industrial purposes from tobacco seed.

Soviet Russia was building this year a magnetic observatory at the old city of Novgorod, for study of terrestrial magnetism.

Since weather is important to success of military missions, weather observers and forecasters are included in U. S. Army organization.

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