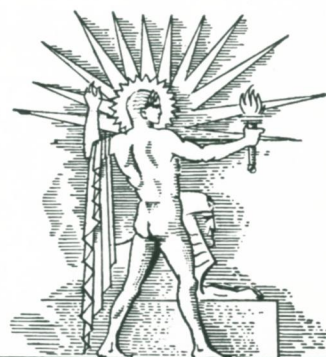


# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



MARCH 26, 1932

The Undivided Robe

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## DO YOU KNOW THAT

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A white metal leaf, non-tarnishing, has been developed from palladium for uses similar to those of gold leaf.

A pineapple is about 89 per cent. water.

Remains of an Indian dugout canoe submerged offshore at Cumberland Island, Ga., were recently removed by an archaeologist who said the canoe was originally twenty feet long.

A surgeon has devised a new method of sewing up abdominal incisions, which he terms the zipper stitch.

Nickel has been made in such thin sheets that print may be read through five thicknesses of the metal placed a few millimeters apart.

One thousand Hungarian partridges soon will arrive from Czechoslovakia to stock Pennsylvania lands.

During the recent drought, scientific artificial feeding saved the life of the historic old hackberry tree on the Wakefield estate in Virginia where George Washington was born.

Government chemists have developed a method of manufacturing sweet potato starch which is expected to be useful for textile purposes.

The poison fish of the tropics has along its back a row of spines equipped with poison glands; so that a stab from one of the spines is a poisoned one.

Dwarfs were objects of great interest to the ancient Romans, and artificial dwarfing was sometimes practised.

Gales in northern Europe have been so severe this winter that Sweden alone is said to have had three million forest trees felled by wind.

A collection of thousands of coins made of platinum, gold, silver, copper and alloy, some more than 2000 years old, has been bequeathed to McGill University.

The U. S. Forest Products Laboratory says that the reputed permanence of ancient glue is probably due to chance conditions which favored the specimens discovered, rather than to any superiority of ancient glues over modern

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

**C**URIOSITY-AROUSING questions are prepared concerning the most interesting and important news in each issue. These questions should be a mental stimulant for the adult reader and a boon to the teacher who uses the Science News Letter to add zest to her classroom instruction.

Book reference in italic type is not the source of information of the article, but a reference for further reading on the subject of the article. Books cited can be supplied by Librarian, Science Service, at publisher's price, prepaid in U. S.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

Does the oldest main street in America have a paved surface? Who are Oraibians? p. 194.  
*The Rain-makers—Mary Coolidge—Houghton Mifflin, 1929, \$4.*

What did the ladies of the eleventh Egyptian dynasty use for perfume? p. 203

Where was the "stone mandate" found? p. 191

### ASTRONOMY

In what constellation was the new heavenly body located? p. 192

### BOTANY

What color are Magnolia flowers? p. 203  
*Field Book of American Trees and Shrubs—F. Schuyler Mathews—Putnam, 1915, \$3.50*

### CALENDAR REFORM

What was the date of the resurrection of Christ? When does Easter come in 1933? p. 200

### ENGINEERING

Why was a stereotyping plant brought here all the way from Switzerland? p. 202

### ENGINEERING-SEISMOLOGY

How fast do earthquake waves travel? p. 192

### ENTOMOLOGY

What do the walking-stick insects eat? p. 197  
*Field Book of Insects—Frank E. Lutz—Putnam, 1929, \$2.50.*

What is unusual about the diet of the monkey-faced caterpillar? p. 200

### ETHNOLOGY

What is the "paternal instinct"? p. 196

### MEDICINE

What is a virus? How many dyes were successful in destroying the tumor-virus in chickens? p. 193

### OCEANOGRAPHY

How wide is the Gulf Stream in the Straits of Florida? p. 196

### PALEOBOTANY

How long ago did the North American forests move southward? p. 191

### PHYSICS

What suggested the idea of blowing bubbles of rubber? p. 202

Which color lights have the most powerful effects on a white surface covered with silver nitrate? How is gelatin emulsion placed uniformly on photographic plates? p. 198. *Photography, Its Principles and Applications—Alfred Watkins—Van Nostrand, 1929, \$4.*

### PSYCHOLOGY

What is "please want me" in Chinese? p. 201.

### ZOOLOGY

What is the tree duck? p. 197