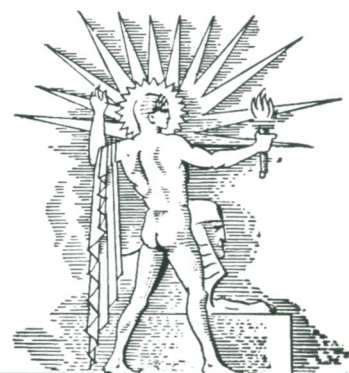
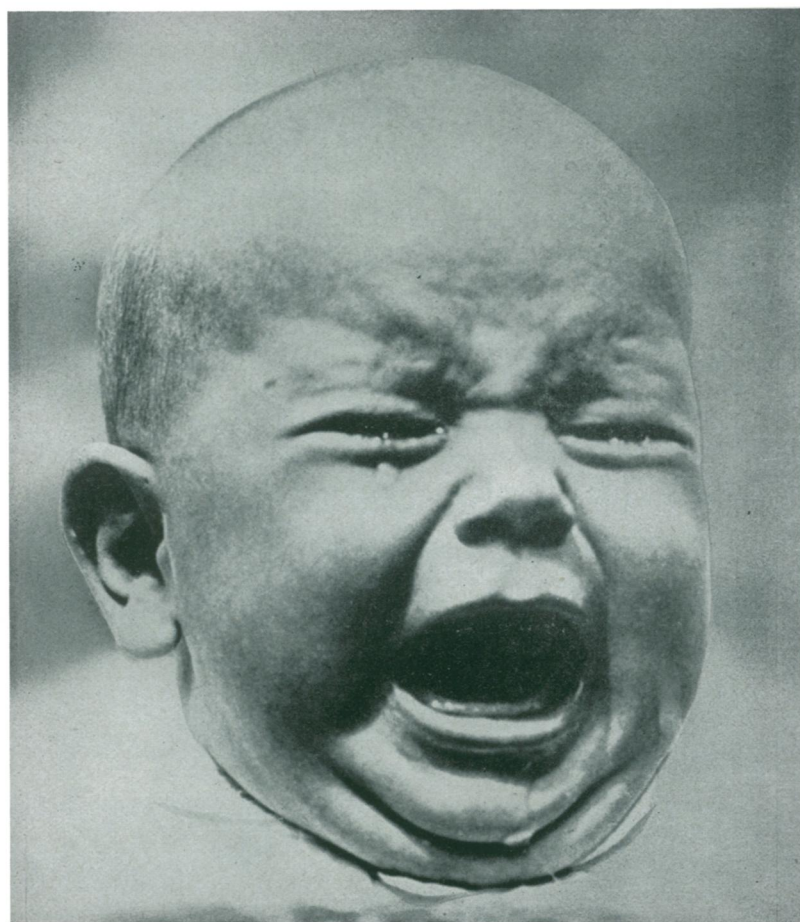


PRICE  
15¢

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



NOVEMBER 26, 1932

It Will be Over in Five Minutes

See Page 338

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XXII

No. 607

The Weekly  
Summary ofCurrent  
Science

Published by

## SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

Subscription rates—\$5.00 a year postpaid; 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.

In requesting change of address, please give old as well as new address.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

### Board of Trustees of Science Service

*Honorary President*, William E. Ritter, University of California. Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, J. McKeen Cattell, *President*, Editor, Science, Garrison, N. Y.; Burton E. Livingston, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Raymond Pearl, Director, Institute for Biological Research, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. Representing the National Academy of Sciences, W. H. Howell, *Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee*, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; David White, Senior Geologist, U. S. Geological Survey. Representing National Research Council, Vernon Kellogg, Secretary Emeritus, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe, Editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Representing Journalistic Profession, John H. Finley, Associate Editor, New York Times; Mark Sullivan, Writer, Washington, D. C.; Marlen E. Pew, Editor of Editor and Publisher, New York City. Representing E. W. Scripps Estate, Harry L. Smithton, *Treasurer*, Cincinnati, Ohio; Robert P. Scripps, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, West Chester, Ohio; Thomas L. Sidlo, Cleveland, Ohio.

### Staff of Science Service

Managing Editor, Watson Davis; Staff writers: Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, J. W. Young; Librarian, Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

Copyright, 1932, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited since it is distributed for personal, school, club or library use only. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service, details and samples of which will gladly be sent on request.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have the privilege of subscribing to the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at the reduced price of \$3 per year. Application for this privilege should be accompanied by privilege card obtained from the Permanent Secretary, A. A. A. S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Publication Office, 1930 Clifton Ave., Baltimore, Md. Editorial and Executive Office, Constitution Ave. at 21st St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Address all communications to Washington, D. C. Cable address: Scienserv, Washington.

Entered as second class matter October 1, 1926 at the post-office at Baltimore, Md., under the act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trade-mark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices.

?

## DO YOU KNOW THAT

?

A European idea of renting electrical appliances to householders is being tried out in this country.

An analysis of 1,328 magazines printed in the Soviet Union in 1930 showed practically one-third to be scientific.

Pointing out that not all rodents are harmful, a zoologist mentions grasshopper mice, which feed almost entirely on insects.

Tests indicate that babies respond to colors at three months of age, but do not distinguish different colors until twelve to fifteen months.

A National Historical Grove of trees from historic places has been established at Washington, D. C., by the American Forestry Association.

Government tests have shown pecan growers that the injury known as black pit is caused by insects and not by a disease organism as was supposed.

A house being excavated at Verulamium, the old Romano-British city near St. Albans, England, is found to have had an elaborate central heating system.

A zoologist says that in Africa many kinds of animals sometimes gather at the waterholes and wait their turn to drink with amazing patience, even courtesy.

Research has developed a new waterproof silk for raincoats, said to have superior resistance to heat and cold and cleaning.

The first new mineral discovered by X-ray methods has been named braggite, in honor of Sir William Bragg, noted scientist.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, almost none of the milk sold in the larger American cities was pasteurized; now almost 90 per cent. is.

Grapes from fifteen different foreign countries are being tested at the University of California in the search for new varieties suitable to grow in that state.

A report from London announces a new process by which plastic materials and electrical insulation can be made from waste leather, seaweed, and certain vegetable fibers.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

Curiosity arousing questions for the teacher and general reader. 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 Librarian, Science Service, at publisher's price, prepaid in U. S.

### ANTHROPOLOGY

What is the estimated age of the "earliest American girl?" p. 335. *Ancient Americans—Emily C. Davis—Holt*, 1931, \$3.50.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

Did Eskimos make the stone ceremonial lamp found in Alaska during the past summer? p. 336.

What birds did Arizona Indians eat 1,000 years ago? p. 335

### ASTRONOMY

How far from the earth are the 300,000 southern sky galaxies being studied by Harvard? p. 337. *Kosmos—W. de Sitter—Harvard Univ. Press*, 1932, \$1.75.

How much radiation is given off by a star twice as big as the sun? p. 336.

### ASTRONOMY-RADIO

Which of the two ionized layers of upper atmosphere do meteors affect? p. 335. *Meteors—Charles P. Olivier—Williams and Wilkins*, 1925, \$6.

### BOTANY

What wild shrubs has the white pine blister rust made allies of? p. 346.

### FORESTRY

How tall was the Douglas fir which may have been older than Sequoias? p. 337.

### GENETICS

What scientific importance has the jimson weed acquired? p. 337.

### MEDICINE

What plasticizer has become important medically? p. 346.

### MINING-ARCHAEOLOGY

From what mines did Egypt and Babylon get metals for bronze? p. 341.

### PALEONTOLOGY

What is the name of the ancestor of all dinosaurs? p. 340. *Animals of the past—Fred-eric A. Lucas—McClure, Phillips & Co.*, 1902, \$2.

When and where did the horned gopher live? p. 342.

### PATHOLOGY

What disease may have aided the extermination of the wild heath hen? p. 340.

### PHYSICS

How does Dr. Delbruck make protons and neutrons explain cosmic ray's peculiar behavior? p. 346.

### PHYSIOLOGY

Does cancer attack heart muscles? p. 341.

### PSYCHOLOGY

Are there geniuses and morons among rats? p. 336.

What is the best way to combat temper tantrums in children? p. 338. *Anger in Young Children—Florence L. Goodenough—Univ. of Minnesota*, 1931, \$2.50.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Where has protein-deficient dropsy been breaking out? p. 335.



**H**OW MUCH are you going to spend for Christmas gifts this season? Good friends must be remembered in an appropriate manner. But economic conditions have made it necessary for most of us to spend less money on their presents.

For those who want to make gifts in 1932 that will be as useful and as appreciated as their remembrances of past years, but who find that they have less money to spend, SCIENCE NEWS LETTER has a suggestion that is bound up with sensible economy.

Why not send SCIENCE NEWS LETTER to many of your friends on the Christmas list? As the only weekly magazine that interprets science for the layman, SCIENCE NEWS LETTER has an unusual and wide appeal. And we have arranged to make it even more welcomed as a Christmas gift.

Gift magazines ordinarily arrive in drab wrappers some time after Christmas, announced only by a card. But this is not true of SCIENCE

NEWS LETTER, for the first copy of your subscription will reach the recipient by special delivery mail right in the midst of the excitement of Dec. 25. And it will be wrapped in a crinkly-paper, holly-green Christmas box and will bear a silver and firecracker-red card with your name on it. The picture above shows just how your gift SCIENCE NEWS LETTER will be received.

After making the wrapping and the manner of delivery as acceptable for Christmas as the contents will be 52 times during the year, we assured ourselves that the price will fit economy budgets. A single subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is \$5, but if you enclose in your envelope two or more subscriptions the price will be only \$3.50 each. Gifts of such great value as 52 copies of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for only \$3.50 are indeed rare.

Go over your Christmas list now. Check the names of those for whom SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is a suitable gift. Write these names and addresses clearly on the coupon and mail it today.

To SCIENCE NEWS LETTER  
21st and Constitution Ave., N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Please enter the following one-year subscriptions to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER and bill me \$3.50 for each subscription.

**GIFT TO**

Name .....  
Street  
Address .....  
City and  
State .....

**GIFT TO**

Name .....  
Street  
Address .....  
City and  
State .....

**GIFT TO**

Name .....  
Street  
Address .....  
City and  
State .....

**NOTE:** You may also extend your own subscription for \$3.50 if you include it with one or more gift subscriptions. If you wish to have your subscription extended, check here .

**My Name and Address—Send Bill to:**

Name .....  
Street  
Address .....  
City and  
State .....