

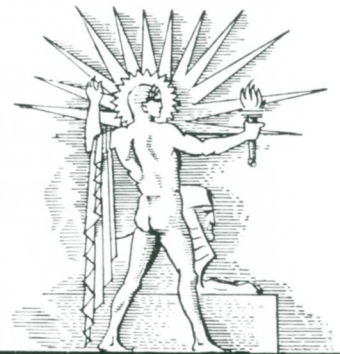
PRICE
15¢



SCIENCE NEWS LETTER



THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



JANUARY 12, 1935

Relic of the Past

See Page 20



A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XXVII



No. 718

The Weekly Summary of

Current Science

Published Every Saturday by

SCIENCE SERVICE

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE POPULARIZATION OF SCIENCE organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation, with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the E. W. Scripps Estate and the journalistic profession.

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

Subscription rates—\$5.00 a year postpaid; 30 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.

Canadian and foreign subscribers please add \$1 a year to regular subscription rates to cover postage.

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. S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one in notification to Circulation Department, SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 21st and Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C., at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

Copyright, 1935, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Publication Office, 1930 Clifton Ave., Baltimore, Md., Editorial and Executive Office, 21st and Constitution Ave., 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. 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*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; 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, Washington, D. C. 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

Director, Watson Davis; Staff Writers: Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Robert Potter; Astronomy writer, James Stokley; London correspondent, Donald Caley. Correspondents in principal cities and centers of research, Librarian, Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

DO YOU KNOW?

Golden tweezers were used by some of the ancient Mexicans to pluck their sparse beards.

Primitive men complete their growth of permanent teeth somewhat earlier than civilized men.

Moscow's planetarium has been visited by three million persons in the five years of its existence.

When completed, the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State will be twice as high as Niagara Falls.

Fossil ostrich eggs found in China are about a third larger than the biggest eggs of living ostriches.

Instead of naming children after parents, some primitive tribes have the custom of naming parents after their children.

About 30 instances of quintuplet births are known from medical literature, but none in which all babies lived more than a few days, until the famous Dionne quintuplets arrived.

Most bears include insects in their diet.

Toy soldiers were carved for Eskimo children to play with, many centuries ago.

Almost 85 per cent. of Egypt's 15,000,000 people depend, directly or indirectly, upon agriculture.

British excavators have found five Viking houses on an inlet of the Shetland Islands.

A therapeutic pool for treatment of infantile paralysis patients is planned for the University of Michigan Hospital.

A nautical almanac, dating from 467 A. D., and written on papyrus in Greek, is a record of interest to astronomers.

A problem before the pulp and paper industry is to develop wood pulps suitable for chemical transformation into artificial silk, lacquers and cellophane.

WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

ANTHROPOLOGY

Are medical and religious ideals improving the human race biologically? p. 23.

ASTRONOMY

What are the stars made of? p. 19.

What will the earth be like a billion years from now? p. 29.

ETHNOLOGY

What is the chief characteristic of southwest folk songs? p. 31.

Where did the snow-shoes come from? p. 28.

GENETICS

What flower never opens its buds? p. 30.

GENETICS-ASTRONOMY

What is the average distance between the stars? p. 19.

MEDICINE

What does the flea contribute to the spread of typhus? p. 24.

What effect has serum on undulant fever? p. 22.

METEOROLOGY

How does their origin affect the form of snowflakes? p. 31.

How often is the moon blue? p. 24.

OCEANOGRAPHY

How can huge destructive waves be forecast? p. 20.

How is the Byrd expedition measuring the thickness of ice? p. 24.

PHYSICS

How is radium rescued from the discard? p. 22.

What are the plans for the next stratosphere flights? p. 30.

What happens when salt is added to an emulsion? p. 21.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

What are man's chief weapons against wheat rust? p. 25.

PSYCHOLOGY

Are first impressions always best? p. 24.

Are men born mentally equal? p. 22.

Are men more likely to be geniuses than women? p. 25.

Can you add to your child's mental stature? p. 29.

Do distinguished men live long? p. 23.

How can you cure yourself of fears? p. 25.

How does the murderer differ from other men? p. 26.

Why is a thing not identical with itself? p. 20.

SEISMOLOGY

How did the earth celebrate the coming of the new year? p. 24.

SOCIOLOGY

What are the arguments against sterilization of the feebleminded? p. 28.