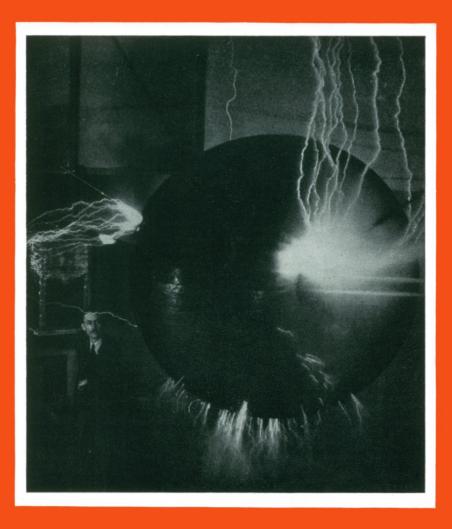
# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE.





**FEBRUARY 23, 1935** 



1,000,000 Volts See Page 115

SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XXVII



No. 724

The Weekly Summary of

#### Current Science

Published Every Saturday by

#### SCIENCE SERVICE

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE POPULAR-IZATION OF SCIENCE organized 1921 as a nonprofit 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; 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.

Canadian subscribers please add 50 cents a year, foreign subscribers 75 cents a year, to regular subscription rates to cover postage.

year, foreign subscribers 75 cents 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 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.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one in notification to Circulation Department, Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C., at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

Copyright, 1935, by Science Service, Inc. Republication 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, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.

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

### Board of Trustees of Science Service

Board of Trustees of Science Service

Honorary President, William E. Ritter, Univesity 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, Califonia Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; Representing National Research Council, Vernon Kellogg, Secretary Emeritus, National Research Council, Washington, D. 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 cen-ters of research. Librarian, Minna Gill. Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

# DO YOU KNOW?

A true blond, according to an anthropologist's definition, is one who does not tan when sunburned, but blisters and peels.

In the past ten years almost a million people in the United States-944,174 to be exact—have lost their lives from accidents.

Lead poisoning, often contracted occupationally, is a specific cause of stillbirths, abortions, and sterility, says the U. S. Women's Bureau.

Monarch butterflies discovered in England on rare occasions are believed to have come from America, aided over the sea by favoring winds.

Government biologists have examined hairs from clothing worn by Indians in the Southwest over 1500 years ago, and identified the material as rabbit hair.

Deterioration of upper leather in shoes, attributed to perspiration, is being studied by Canadian scientists to see how the leather can be made more resistant.

Over a hundred new terms are added each year to the weather-man's scientific vocabulary.

The game animals in the Mount Mc-Kinley region of Alaska are reported to be in unusually good condition.

The white skin of an albino buffalo was prized by Indians, who believed that one who wore a white buffalo robe would have good luck hunting.

School courses for retail fish dealers are planned by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, to teach better methods for handling fresh and frozen fish.

The great Siberian meteor of 1908 caused such glows in the sky over northern Europe that in Scotland a photograph was taken at midnight with only 90 seconds exposure.

Drug manufacturers are to have an exhibit office in Milan where Italian physicians may inspect and obtain information about foreign products in the drug and pharmaceutical field.

# WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

Most articles are based on communications to Science Service or papers before meetings, but where published sources are used they are referred to in the articles.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Were pipes common among the primitive South American natives? p. 117.

What sort of jewelry was worn 5,700 years ago? p. 116.

ASTRONOMY

How bright is Johnson's Comet? p. 121. What planets will be visible during March? p. 122.

BACTERIOLOGY

What are the most convenient vehicles for hitch-hiking microbes? p. 120.

ETHNOLOGY

Did shirts ever have a symbolic usefulness? p. 118.

What place will elms have in the shelter-belts? p. 126.

Where is the last uncut remnant of "Penn's Woods"? p. 120.

GEOGRAPHY

What wealth comes from Abyssinia? p. 124. MEDICINE

Does lack of vitamin B2 or G cause pellagra? p. 127.

How is the new pneumonia vaccine produced? p. 116.

What should the outdoor worker do when his hands turn white from the cold? p. 121.

How do metallurgists test steel by examining the slag? p. 117.

How is steam used for crushing ores? p. 126.

METEOROLOGY

What sort of weather did the Macon meet on Feb. 12? p. 124.

MINING-AVIATION

How many airplane landing fields are there in Idaho? p. 127.

PALEONTOLOGY

How long was the beak of a miocene long-beaked whale? p. 121.

PHYSICS

What voltage is the Ohio State generator capable of producing? p. 115.
Why do scientists consider ultraviolet could not be the cause of the radio reflecting layers?

Why is a foot a foot? p. 125.

PHYSICS—ASTRONOMY

What effect has the moon on the ionosphere? p. 115.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What did U. S. Public Health Service investigators find out about the questioned antitoxin in Pennsylvania? p. 121.

What disease leads as killer of young adults?

p. 120.

ZOOLOGY

Who ever saw a pink-cheeked squirrel? p. 120.