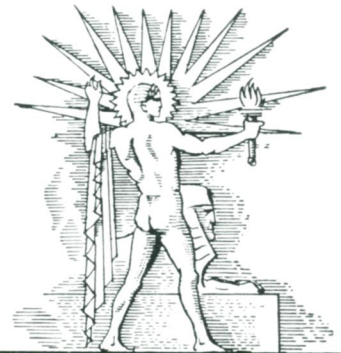
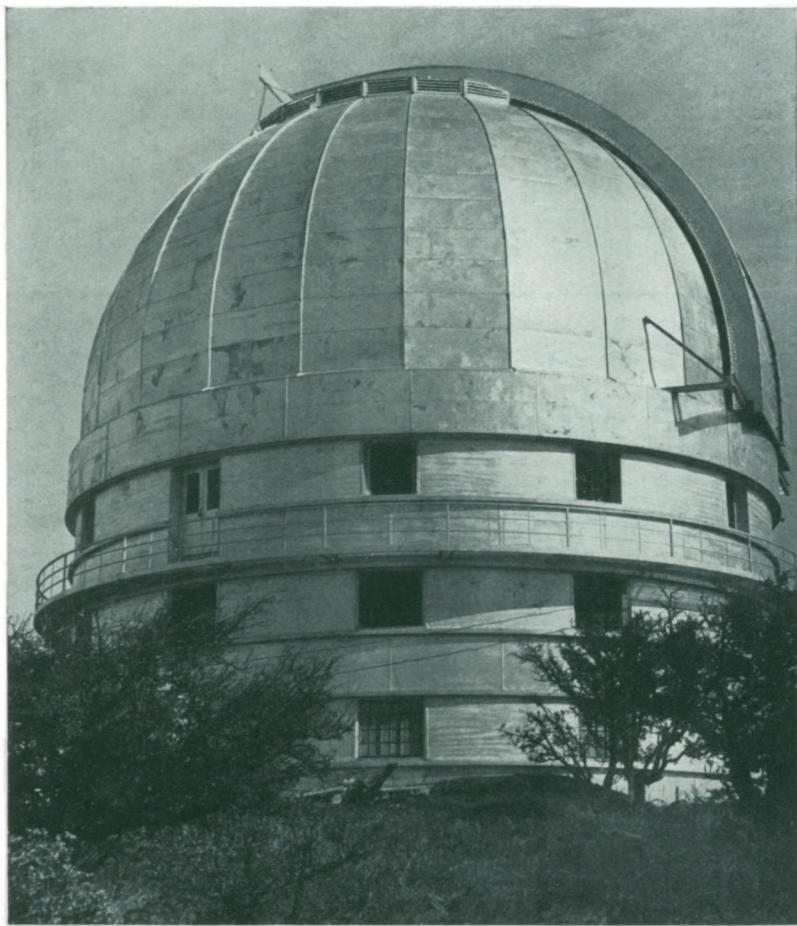


PRICE  
15¢

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



MARCH 2, 1935

Ready For The Mirror  
See Page 137

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XXVII

No. 725

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; 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.

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.

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. 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, 2101 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.; 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. Few, 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?

Nearly all the world's glaciers are in retreat.

Approximately half the people of the United States use water from wells.

A mother's chance of having quadruplets is figured to be one in 654,455.

London's firemen are trying a recently approved composition helmet in place of the old brass pattern.

A typical farm harbors 10 to 100 rats, says a zoologist, adding that 50 rats would cost about \$40 a year in grain and mash they eat.

Plants and cut flowers give off water into the air, and thus help to keep the air of a room from becoming too arid from artificial heat.

Recent tests show that Canadian radium from La Bine Point, Great Bear Lake, is practically free from mesothorium, an objectionable impurity.

The measles epidemic of this winter broke a 21 year record.

Pumice stone was used by women of Rome to whiten their teeth.

Small sparks due to static electricity are known to cause occasional fires.

Our words moon and month both come from the Sanskrit root *mas*, meaning to measure.

A process has been developed for dyeing sponges, so that they may match the various bright hues of modern bathrooms.

The firefly once exercised his brains so hard that he began to glow, according to a legend told by Mayan Indians of Yucatan.

German scientists report that they can put on the German market widely different sorts of nicotine-free cigar, pipe, and cigarette tobacco.

## 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

How did the ancient Greeks advertise their pottery? p. 139.

Why is da Vinci claimed to be the painter of a famous painting credited to Botticelli? p. 131.

## ASTRONOMY

Where is it clear 300 nights a year? p. 137.

## CHEMISTRY

Can dresses be made from sugar cane? p. 137.

How many isotopes are known to science? p. 140.

## DEMOGRAPHY

How fast is Europe growing? p. 136.

How old are the people living in the theater district of New York? p. 137.

## ECOLOGY

How does the prairie shoestring resist drought? p. 141.

## ENGINEERING

How much will synthetic gasoline increase the power of airplanes? p. 138.

## ENTOMOLOGY

Do butterflies warn by their bright colors? p. 139.

## MEDICINE

How does the thyroid gland affect the heart? p. 131.

What is the electrostethograph? p. 136.

What may be substituted for orange juice in baby's diet? p. 136.

What new disease is puzzling San Diego physicians? p. 131.

## MENTAL HYGIENE

At what time of life do the greatest number of mental diseases develop? p. 133.

## PALEONTOLOGY

How long ago was New Hampshire under the sea? p. 135.

## PHYSICS

How low is the lowest temperature observed by man? p. 133.

What is the advantage of Chinese paper windows? p. 137.

What is the Milne theory of the universe? p. 139.

What may be the origin of the energy of cosmic rays? p. 136.

## PHYSICS-METEOROLOGY

At what season are the sun's rays hottest? p. 136.

## PHYSIOLOGY

How is the female sex hormone related to cancer? p. 141.

How much vitamin B is required in the diet? p. 138.

## POPULATION

How many persons in the United States are over 65? p. 142.

## PSYCHIATRY

How do patients react to defeat? p. 132.

What important trait is measured by the "genetic scale of social maturity"? p. 132.

What is the cause of manic-depressive insanity? p. 143.

Why Gertrude Stein? p. 134.

## SOCIOLOGY

How much education does the murderer usually have? p. 140.