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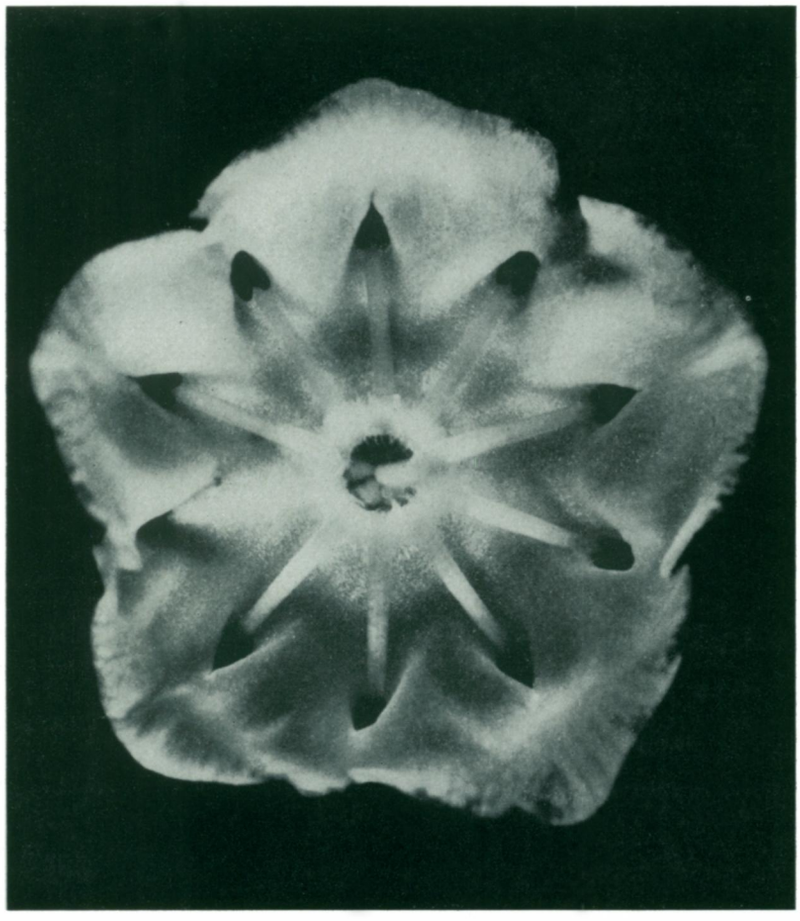
SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



FEBRUARY 8, 1936

Decimal Perfection

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DO YOU KNOW?

A rattlesnake does not always sound its rattle as a warning before striking.

A new magnetic detector is used to hunt "lost" city pipes, and has located some hidden seven feet deep.

The recent disastrous drought in the Imperial Valley of California, costing ten million dollars, cannot recur with Boulder Dam "on the job."

A British speech teacher predicts that the anti-noise drive in New York will improve speech because New Yorkers will not have to shout to make themselves heard.

A curious stone from South Africa, now being commercially developed, is said to be flexible, elastic, acid proof, weather resistant, and capable of being planed, sawed or turned in a lathe.

For the price of a phone call, Berlin residents may now obtain the correct time over the telephone from an automatic announcing device, and the innovation is so popular that the revenue is figured at about $2,000 a day.

When X-rays were discovered, popular ideas regarding their power were so ridiculous that X-ray proof clothes were advertised.

Engineers at Pennsylvania State College report that they have devised apparatus for testing Diesel engine fuels quickly and accurately.

Of all foreign students in this country, Chinese speak English best and Germans rate second, according to observations at International House, New York City.

The old Chinese belief that fossil bones were dragon bones and good medicine has undoubtedly caused destruction of many rare specimens showing what China's ancient animal life was like.

Sleeping cars are so arranged that passengers lie "head first" toward the engine because in earlier times soot and drafts were less troublesome that way, explains an ambulance company which considers the opposite way of lying to be more restful in a moving conveyance.

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 article.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Are Easter Island images cheerful-looking? p. 83.

What did pharaohs carve on scarabs? p. 89.

Did men of the Old Stone Age raise wheat? p. 93.

AVIATION

What makes it difficult to land an airplane? p. 87.

BACTERIOLOGY

Are there bacteriophages for clover root nodule organisms? p. 88.

BIOLOGY

Can evolutionary changes occur in a non-living object? p. 86.

BOTANY

Who has photographed tree flowers? p. 94.

CHEMISTRY

How thick is "thick oil"? p. 84.

How can an onion's "breath" be measured? p. 85.

DACTYLOGRAPHY

Can fingertip skin be transplanted? p. 90.

ENGINEERING

How do storm windows save coal? p. 84.

How will motor cars of the future be kept cool in summer? p. 87.

How is the strength of wire tested? p. 88.

ETHNOLOGY

Who ate sea-anemones? p. 89.

What Indians lock up their girls? p. 93.

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Should scientists be cloistered? p. 83.

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What is the earth like inside? p. 84.

INVENTION

What kind of cement is used on shingles? p. 89.

MEDICINE

Can coughs be prevented? p. 83.

What new book tells about vitamins? p. 95.

PHYSICS

How was Radium E manufactured? p. 85.

How does touch affect piano tone? p. 86.

What glass is useful to both astronomers and cooks? p. 88.

RADIO

How are noises compelled to "commit suicide"? p. 88.

ZOOLOGY

How white are albino elephants? p. 88.