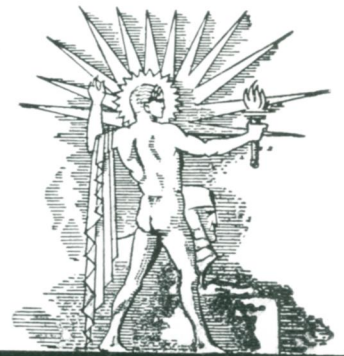


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



MARCH 28, 1936

"Rain Was Upon the Earth"

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## DO YOU KNOW?

The lake connected with Boulder Dam is to have a shoreline 550 miles long.

Ice cream made for diabetic patients is made largely of cream and eggs with saccharine to sweeten it.

Japanese women used styles of hair-dressing to express emotion, such as joy, mourning, or formal solemnity.

The sharp silica dust from sand or quartz, that injures the lungs of miners, can penetrate even steel, making it weak and brittle.

Electrical equipment has been devised so that florists can get "clean dirt" for plants by sterilizing the soil to kill weed seed, insects, and fungi.

In making red cedar oil from sawdust by steam distillation, manufacturers use old fence rails, house timbers, or roots and stumps of cedar trees.

In a recent government campaign to seize worthless old drugs, eleven truckloads destroyed in Texas included some medicines as old as the Spanish-American war.

A company formed in Brazil will extract shark liver oil, said to be richer in Vitamins A and D than good cod liver oil.

Prickly pear cactus plants, once natives of America, are serving as barbed wire substitutes in the war zone of Ethiopia.

It is thought likely that California's present walnut orchards will continue producing nuts until they are about a hundred years old.

Twelve states and the U. S. Department of Agriculture have opened a cooperative laboratory to study and test soy beans for industry.

The bookplate idea is quite old—a clay tablet of the seventh century B. C. is marked "Property of Assurbanipal, king of the world, King of Assyria."

So persistent is the attempt to prove or solve mathematical problems that experts consider unsolvable, that Teachers College, Columbia University, gets several "solutions" each week to the problem of trisecting an angle by means of ruler and compass.

## 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.

## AERONAUTICS

How powerful is the rocket motor? p. 201.

## ANATOMY

What are the facial changes of age? p. 198.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

Could men of old Athens borrow books from the library? p. 195.

Did America have cave men? p. 200.  
Was the ox ever a creature of honor? p. 200.  
Where did the psalms originate? p. 204.

## ASTRONOMY

How great are the planetary nebulae just found in the Milky Way? p. 199.

How much light came from the recently discovered super nova? p. 195.  
How many constellations are recognized today? p. 202.

## CHEMISTRY

How is slipperiness removed from floor wax? p. 200.

## ENGINEERING

How do airplanes aid in designing the modern steam locomotive? p. 205.

How long would be the bridge planned for joining Denmark and Sweden? p. 197.

## ETHNOLOGY

What people praise spinsters? p. 201.

## MEDICINE

For what novel research was John Phillips Memorial medal awarded? p. 201.

## METEOROLOGY

How much precipitation preceded the spring thaws in the flood region? p. 196.

## METEOROLOGY—CONSERVATION

What purpose does sod serve in preventing devastating floods? p. 197.

## PHYSICS

Can you get sunburned while very cold? p. 200.

How are ten-billion-volt cosmic rays measured? p. 206.

How is an atom like an angry woman? p. 201.

Who said "The eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibility"? p. 203.

## PHYSICS-PSYCHOLOGY

Can anyone carry a color in mind with perfect accuracy? p. 204.

## PHYSIOLOGY

How is the heart beat slowed? p. 198.

How has it been demonstrated that "hypnotic sleep" differs from normal slumber? p. 206.

## PHYSIOLOGY-PSYCHOLOGY

How did a transplanted toad brain change the manners of a frog? p. 200.