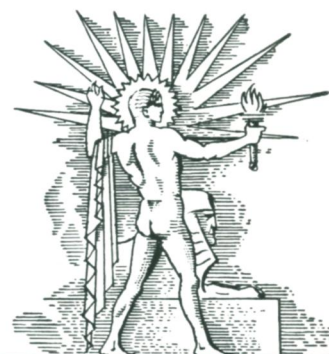
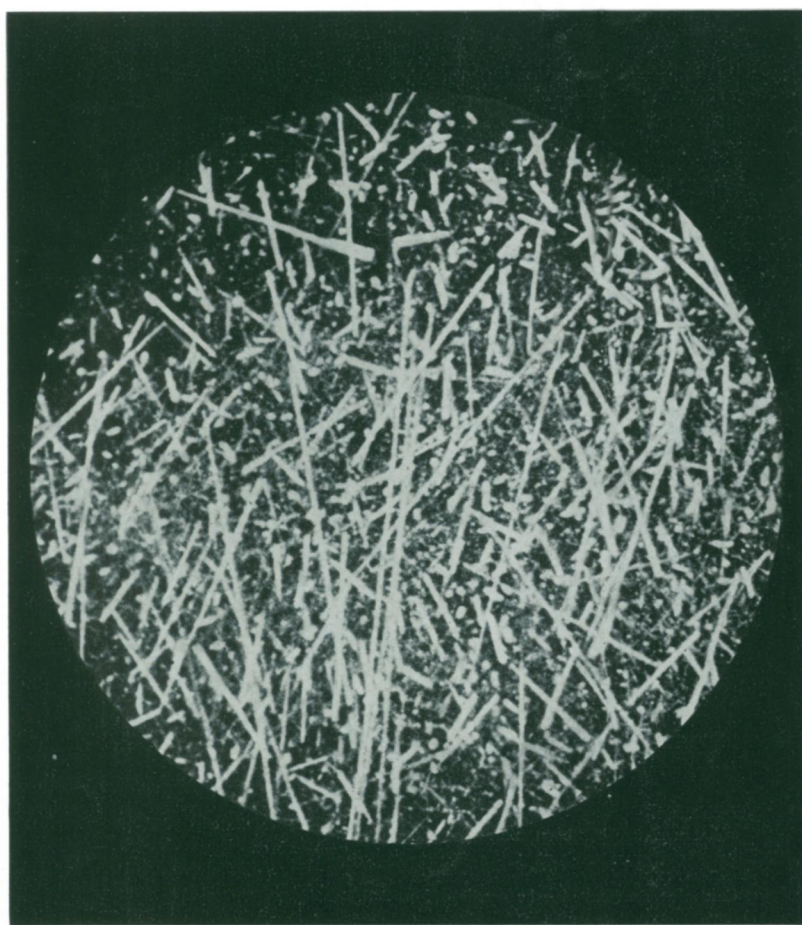


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



MAY 2, 1936

**Atomic Disturbance**

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A S C I E N C E S E R V I C E P U B L I C A T I O N

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

VOL. XXIX



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## Current Science

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## DO YOU KNOW?

The building blocks of the great pyramid in Egypt averaged over two tons in weight.

One hundred rare species of orchids from the tropics of America have been added to Cornell University's collection.

Evergreens transplanted several times are most likely to thrive, because the successive plantings stimulate growth of small roots.

English farmers are responsible for most of the names of our domestic animals, such as ox and steer, but names for meats are mainly French.

The Field Museum has a fossil "fish-lizard" specimen with a tragic history; the British amateur who found it fifty years ago treasured it so that his wife became jealous and sold it, whereupon the man committed suicide.

"Painting the onion" is saving New York farmers thousands of dollars, when the painting consists of applying copper sulfate to muck soil to give the onions thick golden-brown skins instead of pale thin skins that onion buyers found objectionable.

Rats begin to breed when only three or four months old.

A new and speedy icebreaker for Russian icefields is designed with a caterpillar device in the prow.

The tiny baby of a blue whale is about 23 feet long, but it grows up to be 75 or even 100 feet long.

There is a monument to a hen at Little Compton, Rhode Island, placed there to commemorate the origin of the Rhode Island Red breed of chicken.

A New York State experiment station has prepared a list of fruits especially suited for sale at roadside stands and arranged in order of ripening time.

A new attachment for telephones is being tried in Vienna; using it, any one of fifty selected numbers can be instantly called by pressing a lever.

In trapping insects by electric light lures, it is found that efficiency of the light increases up to about 200 watts, but beyond that the glare keeps insects off.

## 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.

### AGRONOMY

What is hailed as the only possible conqueror of dust storms? p. 290.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

What were America's oldest weapons used for? p. 285.

### ASTRONOMY

Of what particular value is the farewell photograph of Anteros? p. 289.

Why can't we see to the center of our own galaxy of stars? p. 285.

### CHEMISTRY

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What new use has been found for the waste from the cornfield? p. 281.

### ENGINEERING

Can mine roof cave-ins be predicted? p. 289.

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### EVOLUTION

What produced the vertebrate's backbone? p. 285.

### GEOGRAPHY

How did Benjamin Franklin try to speed the mails? p. 291.

### MEDICINE

Are children in bed in a hospital encouraged to play games? p. 286.

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Do scientists hope to find an antidote for carbon monoxide poisoning? p. 281.

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Will vitamin C cure tuberculosis? p. 284.

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### PALEONTOLOGY

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How fast does an elephant's heart beat? p. 285.

What use has the body for carbon dioxide? p. 280.

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### PSYCHOLOGY-PHYSIOLOGY

Is vision in cats a single simple process? p. 288.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Where are tuberculosis deaths most frequent? p. 282.