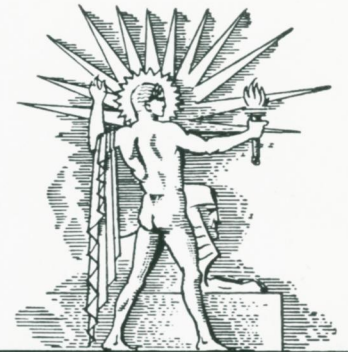


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



AUGUST 8, 1936

Aid for the Land

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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

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## DO YOU KNOW?

Thin cream sours more easily than thick cream.

Spring floods this year destroyed 911 state highway bridges.

China has planted millions of trees in recent years, in an effort to reduce flood disasters.

Green tea is unfermented, whereas black tea is produced by allowing the plucked leaves to wither and ferment for a time.

Soybean meal and various salts are used in a novel method for hardening iron and steel.

Tobacco chemists are experimenting with a "puffing robot" which can smoke four cigarettes at a time in uniform puffs, thus shedding light on the exact nature of cigarette smoke.

The deadly mushroom amanita phalloides, called the "destroying angel," has such powerful poison, says a botanist, that people studying a single plant in a closed room have been known to become nauseated.

An airplane makes about 87 times as much noise as the average automobile.

It took 20,000 square yards of cotton goods to make the bag cover for the Graf Zeppelin.

Apricot juice and California black cherry juice have been added to the list of fruit juices vacuum-packed in cans.

Government plant scientists pronounce Indian corn "the most completely domesticated grain, quite incapable of maintaining itself without man."

The notion that stars may be seen in daytime from the bottom of a deep well or shaft is discounted by astronomers, who explain that this is merely a myth.

It is conservatively estimated that at one time 60,000,000 buffaloes moved across three-fourths of what now is continental United States—3,000,000 more than the domestic cattle in the United States today.

China is to use both moving pictures and radio programs to promote popular education, according to a comprehensive program of the Ministry of Education.

## 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.

## AGRICULTURE

Can a garden grow without soil? p. 83.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

Did ancient Indians in Arizona use forts? p. 89.

What evidence has been found of an earlier people than the Mayas? p. 88.

Where were people buried between layers of clay pressed together like pie crust? p. 86.

## ASTRONOMY

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## BIOLOGY

Can cells be killed by neutrons? p. 88.

## CHEMISTRY

Can an enzyme enter into direct chemical reaction? p. 86.

What does prune beer taste like? p. 88.

What is bacteriophage? p. 84.

What is the importance of phosphates in the United States? p. 90.

## CHEMISTRY-PHYSICS

How large a sample of blood is needed for spectroscopic analysis? p. 85.

## DENDROLOGY

Did Dutch elm disease originate in Holland? p. 89.

## INVENTION

What new wrapping has been proposed for soap? p. 93.

## MEDICINE

What treatment has been effective for psoriasis? p. 94.

## METEOROLOGY

Is golf dangerous because of lightning? p. 87.

## ORNITHOLOGY

With what tools is the woodpecker equipped? p. 95.

## PALEOBOTANY

What plant crossed the Pacific 200,000,000 years ago? p. 88.

## PHILATELY

How has Darwin been recently honored? p. 94.

## PHYSICS

Can an efficient boiler be run without fuel cost? p. 87.

## PHYSIOLOGY

What does grass contribute to an animal's diet? p. 86.

## ZOOLOGY

Do water-fleas have a youth of hardship? p. 92.