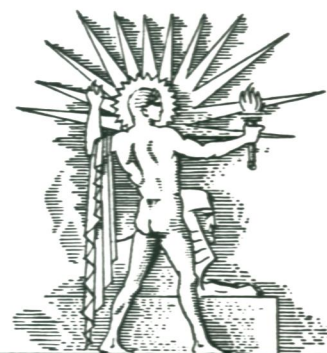
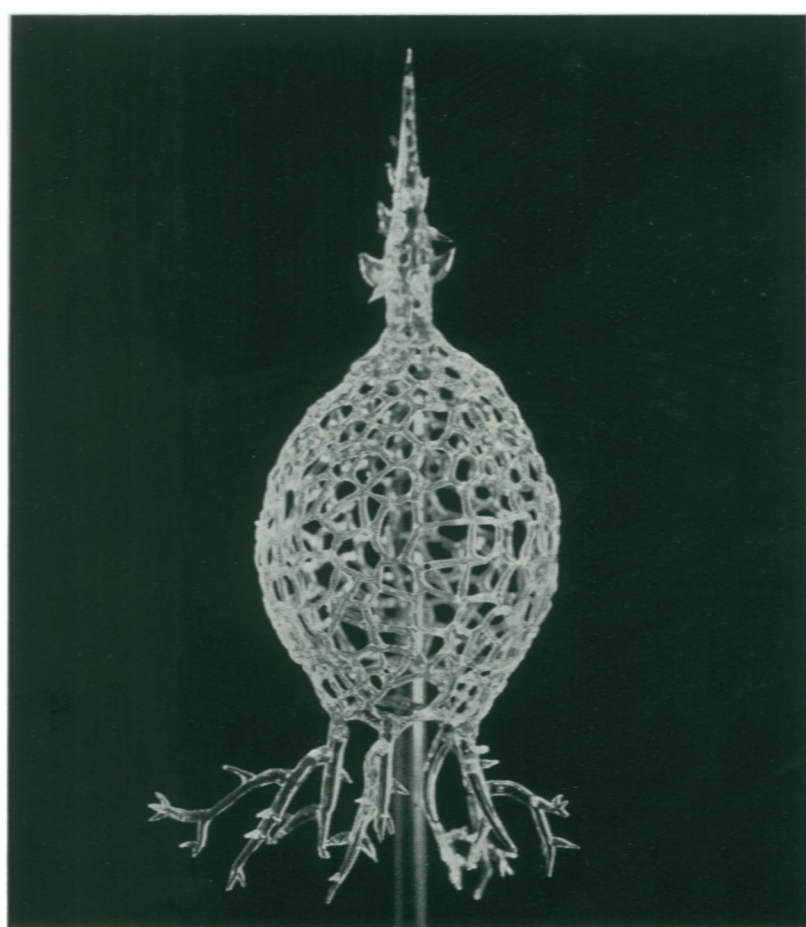


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THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



APRIL 3, 1937

Life in Glass

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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?

The birth rate in England has been falling for about 60 years.

In the cactus the making of food is done by the stem, instead of by leaves as in most plants.

Government scientists are trying to develop a kind of broom corn that will make good brooms and also yield seed palatable to livestock.

So great is the wild alligator's fear of man that humans may safely go bathing in waters inhabited by these animals, says a well-known zoologist.

Drought is blamed as the main reason for locust plagues in China, by one Chinese scientist who checked droughts and locust records back 300 years.

Cattle fed on a wheat diet need three additions to their menu for health—cod liver oil for vitamin A, salt for chlorine, and bone meal to provide calcium.

Medieval bronzes made in the mysterious African Kingdom of Benin are so beautifully designed and executed that a German scholar has said: "Benevenuto Cellini himself could not have made better casts, nor anyone else before or since to the present day."

Woodpeckers have long barbed tongues, useful in picking up insects.

The first bag-limit law for the protection of game was enacted by Iowa in 1878.

Guacharo tobacco, famous cigar leaf discovered less than 50 years ago, can only be grown in a certain part of Venezuela.

Western Indians used to cool the air in hot weather by wetting piles of straw; modern Californians use wet air filters and large ventilating fans.

Romans adorned some boats with animal heads at bow and stern, as Norsemen did, but whether Scandinavians got the idea from Romans is not discovered.

In ancient Egypt and Babylonia, learned books were not valued so much for new ideas or knowledge they contained as for the old, time-tried lore they preserved.

Stone tools and other relics of a tribe of Old Stone Age hunters in Europe have been given to Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts by the National Museum in Budapest.

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.

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