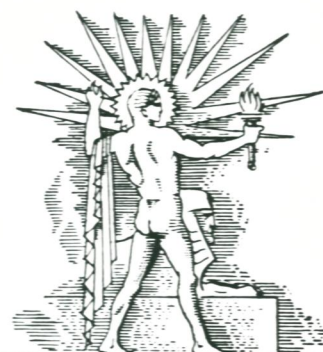
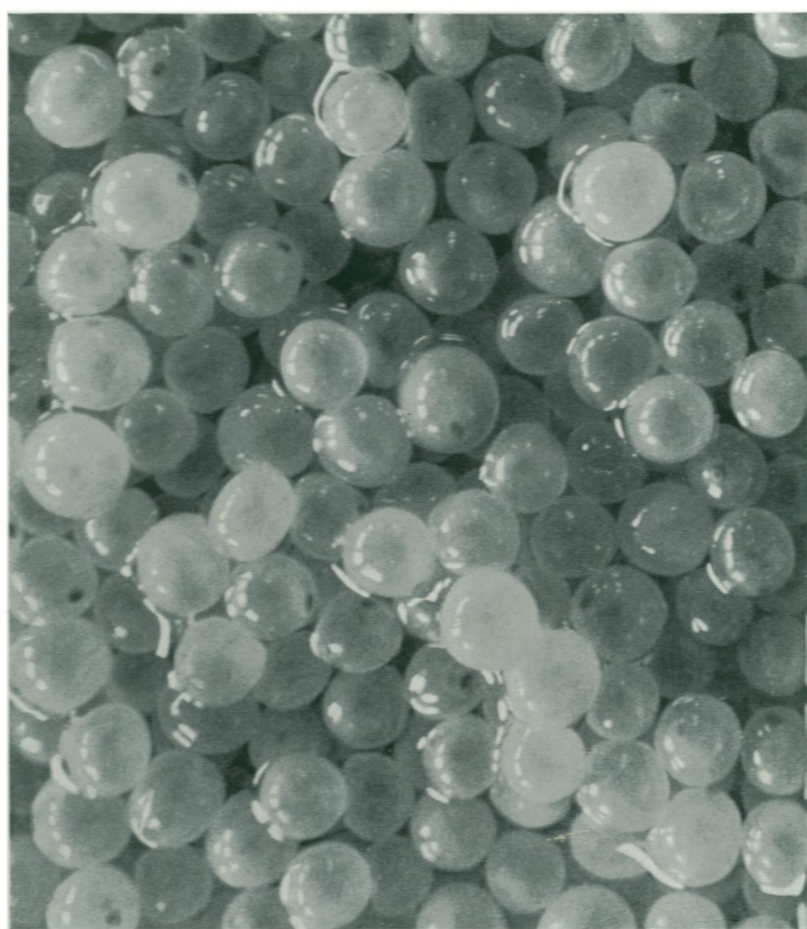


PRICE
15¢

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



APRIL 10, 1937

Living Pearls

See Page 236

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. XXXI



No. 835

The Weekly Summary of

Current Science

Published Every Saturday by

SCIENCE SERVICE

2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE POPULARIZATION OF SCIENCE organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation, with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the E. W. Scripps Estate and the journalistic profession.

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

Subscription rates—\$5.00 a year postpaid; two years \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

Canadian subscribers please add 50 cents a year, foreign subscribers 75 cents a year to regular subscription rate to cover postage.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have the privilege of subscribing to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at the reduced price of \$3 per year. Application for this privilege should be accompanied by privilege card obtained from the Permanent Secretary, A.A.A.S., Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one in notification to Circulation Department, SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C., at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

Copyright, 1937, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices.

Advertising rates furnished on application. Member Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Board of Trustees of Science Service

Honorary President, William E. Ritter, University of California; *Honorary Vice-President*, Vernon Kellogg, National Research Council. Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, J. McKeen Cattell, *President*, Editor, Science, Garrison, N. Y.; Burton E. Livingston, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Henry B. Ward, Permanent Secretary, A.A.A.S. Representing the National Academy of Sciences, W. H. Howell, *Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; R. A. Millikan, Director, Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; Harlow Shapley, Director, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. Representing National Research Council, Ludvig Hektoen, John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases, Chicago, Ill.; C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Harrison E. Howe Editor of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, Washington, D. C. Representing Journalistic Profession, John H. Finley, Associate Editor, New York Times; Mark Sullivan, Writer, Washington, D. C.; Representing E. W. Scripps Estate, Harry L. Smithton, *Treasurer*, Cincinnati, Ohio; Robert P. Scripps, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, West Chester, Ohio; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Staff of Science Service

Director, Watson Davis; Staff Writers: Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Robert Potter; Astronomy writer, James Stokley. Correspondents in principal cities and centers of research. Librarian, Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising Manager, Hallie Jenkins.

DO YOU KNOW?

Aristotle described about 170 birds in his writings on nature.

The world's richest iron-producing field is in Lapland, north of the Arctic circle.

A baby has 11 more bones than an adult, because certain bones in the skull and end of spine later join.

Less than 10 chicken varieties are commercially important in this country, though 140 standard varieties are recognized.

There are about 379 radio beacons in the world, aiding navigators, and one third of these are in United States waters.

Even when shoulder firearms had been invented 160 years, writes an army ordnance expert, the clumsy arquebus was rated less deadly than the bow.

Writing was invented, says one archaeologist, because priests needed to record gifts, loans, wages, and other business dealings that centered at wealthy temples.

There are about 2,000 glaciers in the Alps.

Rope and cord made out of glass yarn are now on the market.

Hypnotism as an aid to dentistry is being tried in the Royal Dental Hospital in London.

Americans eat over 160 kinds of sea food from the lakes, streams and coastal waters of this country.

An agricultural scientist grades soil into seven grain sizes: gravel, coarse sand, medium sand, fine sand, very fine sand, silt, and clay.

Puerto Rican scientists have found that static coming from hurricanes can be identified, and now they hope this static can be used to trace sources of hurricane disturbances.

In ancient Egypt, blind people are said to have used a system of knotted strings on which they could keep records or receive messages, since the position and size of the knots represented different characters.

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

What are the world's oldest statues made of? p. 227.

What was Aaron's "graving tool"? p. 238.

ASTRONOMY

Why should an artist travel far to see an eclipse? p. 229.

BOTANY

Can you gather acorns from vines? p. 238.

CERAMICS

How can photography promote chinaware manufacture? p. 234.

CHEMISTRY

How was Element 87 "lost" again? p. 231.

ENGINEERING

Where would a gas alarm be useful? p. 232.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Is there biological justification for "liberty, equality, fraternity"? p. 227.

What tour will combine science and business? p. 233.

GEOGRAPHY

What American region resembles the famine area of China? p. 233.

MEDICINE

How long ago was electrotherapy prophesied? p. 228.

What ills can benefit from fever treatment? p. 229.

METEOROLOGY

Where are the sunniest places in the United States? p. 237.

ORNITHOLOGY

How often must a bird population be counted to be sure of a good census? p. 232.

PHARMACY

What drugs, now common, were unknown ten years ago? p. 236.

PHYSICS

What new kind of particle is yielded by bombarded lithium? p. 232.

PSYCHOLOGY

How can you stop thinking in a rut? p. 230.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How seriously does syphilis influence employability? p. 227.