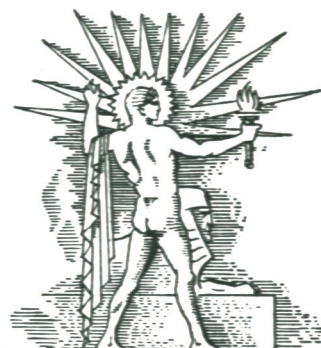


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



May 1, 1937

Gives Appetite

See Page 277

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. 838

The Weekly



Summary of

## Current Science

Published Every Saturday by

## SCIENCE SERVICE

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## DO YOU KNOW?

An electric coal picker has been devised in England.

More than 10,000 species of grasses have been discovered.

In dry weather deep soil shrinks, in wet weather it expands.

A pipeless organ has been invented in Germany, using photoelectric cells and sound wave photographs to produce tones.

The National Bureau of Standards has been studying traffic paint for ten years, and its work has helped make such paints more durable.

A species of bamboo that is blooming this year in Florida is known to bloom in its native Asiatic home at intervals of from 25 to 50 years.

In Norway, a chauffeur, truck driver, or other professional automobile driver may not take any alcoholic drink while driving or within eight hours before.

Comparatively few Indians make their entire living by weaving rugs, doing beadwork, or other crafts; farming and cattle raising are mainstays of most Indian groups.

Volcanoes sometimes erupt under ice-sheets in Iceland.

Dust can be completely removed from gravel roads by special machinery.

A lizard was once found entombed in amber, but two frogs in amber have been pronounced forgeries.

Vikings may have fashioned their swords and plowshares out of meteoric iron that fell from the sky, is the theory of an astronomer.

About one wild rabbit in a hundred is infected with the dangerous germ of the disease tularemia or rabbit fever, which can be transmitted to man.

The idea of damming the Thames river to give London an airport alarms one health official, who fears a stagnant pool would form in dry summers.

Government scientists have found two rootstocks for peaches that will resist the root-knot disease of peach trees in the South and Southwest.

Recent experiments show that if sheets are ironed from selvage to selvage the sheet may gain 3 or 4 per cent, in width, and at the same time become shorter.

## 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.

## ANTHROPOMETRY

Why do age sizes of children's clothes mean so little? p. 278.

## BACTERIOLOGY

What do germs like to eat? p. 279.

## BIOLOGY

How can the very instant of beginning life be detected? p. 282.

How might epileptic attacks be prevented? p. 282.

Is the cause for angina pectoris known? p. 282.

Can a tadpole have eyes in its tail? p. 281.

## GENERAL SCIENCE

Did ocean creatures once live where the Appalachian mountains now rise? p. 276.

Is scrap iron found in the blood? p. 275. What effect does eating sugar have on the person drinking alcohol? p. 275.

Why might "hurry-up" water be an appropriate name for heavy water? p. 275.

## MEDICINE

What new weapon has been found to combat meningitis? p. 280.

Where is a new mass attack against cancer being launched? p. 284.

## NUTRITION

Do New Yorkers eat enough meat? p. 280.

## PALAEONTOLOGY

For how long has life been on the earth? p. 281.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

How has a photographic flash bulb been made to light more than once? p. 280.

## PHOTOGRAPHY-NUTRITION

What does vitamin B<sub>1</sub> look like? p. 277.

## PHYSIOLOGY

How can time be enlarged? p. 281.

## PSYCHOLOGY

What pattern is followed by the cells of the human body? p. 284.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Why has yellow fever become a menace to health in the United States? p. 278.

# Now ready!

## THE CONSUMERS UNION 1937

# BUYING GUIDE

### A 240 page handbook

containing ratings of hundreds of products by brand name as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable"—

including—  
 AUTOMOBILES—New  
 AUTOMOBILES—Used  
 (years and models like-  
 ly to be good buys)  
 BLANKETS, wool  
 BREAD  
 CANNED FRUITS  
 AND VEGETABLES  
 CEREALS  
 COLD & HEADACHE  
 REMEDIES  
 COSMETICS  
 DRUGS  
 ELECTRIC SHAVERS  
 FLOUR  
 FOUNTAIN PENS  
 GASOLINES  
 HAIR DYES  
 HOSIERY  
 CHILDREN'S CLOTH-  
 ING  
 MEN'S SUITS, SHIRTS  
 & SOCKS  
 LIQUORS & WINES  
 MOTOR OIL  
 MECHANICAL REFRIG-  
 ERATORS  
 MEN'S, WOMEN'S &  
 CHILDREN'S SHOES  
 SOAPS  
 SHAVING SOAPS &  
 CREAMS  
 ELECTRIC TOASTERS  
 TOOTH PASTE &  
 POWDERS  
 TOMATO JUICE  
 TUBES  
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 Get this Buying Guide by mailing coupon now!

## Consumers Union Reports for April on:

### COLD CREAMS

"...a particularly blatant example of cosmetic quackery," says the American Medical Association's Bureau of Investigation of a certain grossly over-priced cold cream. Find out which brand this is in the April issue of *Consumers Union Reports*. Fifty-four brands, ranging in price from \$1.53 per ounce (dry weight) to 2.6 cents per ounce, are rated.



### MEN'S SHIRTS

Twelve brands of men's shirts, ranging from inexpensive mail order brands to popular \$2.50 and \$3 brands, were subjected to laboratory tests for shrinkage, wearing qualities, etc. The results of this test and of tests on other products are given in this issue.



### GARDENING

Special knowledge and skill are required to raise vegetables which compare favorably with market produce. A special article on *Gardening* in this issue helps you to acquire this knowledge; gives valuable hints on soil conditions, and rates several brands of fertilizers.



### RADIO SETS

Supplementing a report in the November issue on lower-priced radios, this report rates more than ten popular models ranging in price from \$60 to \$300. Coming issues will contain reports on automobile radios.



### AUTOMOBILES

Concluding the report on 1937 automobiles begun in the March issue (which covered the lower-priced cars), this report gives you automotive engineers' opinions on cars delivering in the \$1000-\$3000 price range. Ratings are given by name. Labor conditions under which cars are made are also reported.



INDEXED for ready reference and conveniently sized to fit the pocket or handbag, this new 1937 BUYING GUIDE issued by Consumers Union of U. S., Inc., will save you time and money while shopping. It will enable you to choose intelligently among the products offered you, by giving you in compact form and in terms of brand names, the results of laboratory tests of the *specific products* you are considering purchasing.

Every American family should have this handbook. If you want to know which vacuum cleaner tested by expert appliance engineers removed the most dirt from carpets; which bed-sheets or shirts are likely to stand laundering best; which cold creams are free from impurities and least expensive; which cold and headache remedies are safe and which are harmful; which liquors are the "Best Buys"; which automobile tires gave the greatest mileage in actual road tests—this GUIDE will tell you, quickly and definitely. You cannot buy the 1937 BUYING GUIDE. But you can get it by becoming a member of Consumers Union.

The material in it is compiled from tests conducted throughout the year by the technical staff and consultants of Consumers Union. Each month these technicians report on standard products; their recommendations are listed by brand name as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," or "Not Acceptable." These reports come to you in a monthly publication, *Consumers Union Reports*. Your membership in Consumers Union brings you, for the very nominal fee of \$3 a year: (1) these *Reports* for a full year; (2) the Annual Buying Guide as described above; (3) a vote in the control of the organization.

Consumers Union has no connection with any manufacturer, advertiser, or other commercial interest. Supported and controlled by its members, there are now close to 35,000 of these throughout the country—a number increasing at the rate of nearly a thousand a week. Consumers Union is organized under the laws of the State of New York as a strictly non-profit, membership organization, and its sole function is to provide consumers with accurate unbiased information about the things they buy. Its President is Professor Colston E. Warne, of Amherst; its Director, Arthur Kallet, co-author of 100,000,000 Guinea Pigs; and its Technical Supervisor, D. H. Palmer, physicist and author of many papers on consumer problems. On its roster of directors and sponsors are many names well known in scientific, professional and educational fields.

Your membership (see coupon below) will bring you the 1937 BUYING GUIDE and twelve issues of *Consumers Union Reports* as issued monthly throughout the year. Some of the products reported on in the current (April) issue are described at the left. Your membership, however, can begin with any of the previous issues, as listed in the coupon. (Note—An abridged edition of the *Reports* is also published at \$1 a year. For information please write.)

## MAIL THIS APPLICATION TODAY!

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 55 Vandam Street, New York, N. Y.

I hereby apply for membership in Consumers Union. I enclose \$3 for one year's membership, \$2.50 of which is for a year's subscription to the complete edition of *Consumers Union Reports*. I understand that this fee also entitles me to receive the 1937 Buying Guide.

I agree to keep confidential all material sent to me which is so designated.

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### YOU CAN BEGIN WITH ANY OF THESE ISSUES:

- (Please check the issue wanted.)
- ( ) SEPT.—Shoes, Tires, Whiskies, Women's Coats.
  - ( ) OCT.—Men's Shirts, Gins, Electric Razors, Dentifrices, Anti-freeze, Solutions.
  - ( ) NOV.—Radios, Toasters, Wines, Children's Shoes, Winter Oils.
  - ( ) DEC.—Vacuum Cleaners, Fountain Pens, Electric Irons, Blankets, Nose Drops.
  - ( ) JAN. - FEB.—Men's Suits, Cold Remedies, Shaving Creams, Children's Undergarments.
  - ( ) MAR.—1937 Autos, Face Powders, Sheets, Flour, Canned Foods.
  - ( ) APRIL—Radio Sets, Gardening, Autos, Shirts, Cold Creams.