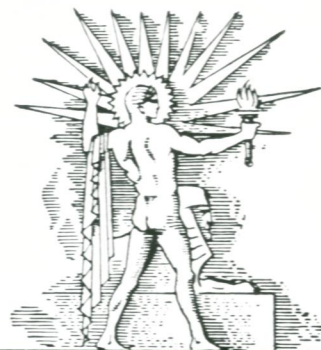


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



July 24, 1937

Book of Warning

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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. XXXII



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The Weekly Summary of

## Current Science

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## DO YOU KNOW?

The electric eel develops more power than any other kind of electric fish.

The fragrant scent of sweet grass was a popular perfume with Indians of the Plains region.

Dutch chemists have produced a new wool-like material rivaling the work of Italian laboratories.

High grade paper and low grade paper deteriorate about equally if exposed to sunlight, so tests reveal.

The dry cleaning industry has devised a plan whereby fabrics may be tested for cleanability before they are put on the market.

In parts of Tokyo the ground has sunk as much as three inches in a year, a condition attributed to contraction of the surface soil.

New uses for zinc are developing since this metal can now be produced 99.99 per cent. pure zinc, instead of in forms containing considerable alloy.

Typewriter ribbons are now made in aluminum color for use on dark paper.

The most desirable coolness for drinking water is about 50 degrees, according to one refrigeration expert.

Dutch scientists in the East Indies are experimenting with uses for rubber seed, as a by-product of the rubber tree.

Pepper is freely used in seasoning food in the tropics because it stimulates perspiration, thereby cooling the body.

Egypt's Coptic language, which supposedly died out centuries ago, is found to be still alive as a secret language.

A new electronic device tests whether the pitch of a singer's voice is true, by showing on a screen the singer's note and the pure note together, in visible wave form.

It has been suggested that man first seasoned his food, in Stone Age times, by licking rock salt.

## 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.

### ASTRONOMY

Is there mist on the moon? p. 57.  
 What legend has now received scientific support? p. 55.  
 What unusual spectacle is now visible in the heavens? p. 55.

### BOTANY

Where was the lost tree, *Torreya taxifolia*, re-discovered? p. 60.

### DENDROLOGY

Are pines and oaks today different from those cut by our ancestors? p. 62.

### DENTISTRY

Can false teeth ever cause deafness? p. 52.  
 Did wisdom teeth bother the ancient Egyptians? p. 52.  
 How can you tell whether your favorite toothpaste will scratch your teeth? p. 51.  
 Why are reports from the patient sometimes unreliable in testing an anesthetic? p. 51.

### ENTOMOLOGY

How many miles can grasshoppers travel in a day when in the flying stage? p. 54.

### ETHNOLOGY

Is the language of the Basques exclusively theirs? p. 54.  
 What ancient culture is now thought to have equalled the ancient Chinese and Egyptian? p. 60.

### HYGIENE

What are the simplest forms of disinfectants for home use? p. 57.

### MEDICINE

Why is appendicitis often fatal when it occurs in infants? p. 57.  
 With what frequency are quintuplets born? p. 62.

### PHARMACY

How rapidly does digitalis lose its strength? p. 56.

### PHYSICS

How can a worm's digestive process be watched and recorded for science? p. 61.  
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### PHYSIOLOGY

What determines the time of birth? p. 56.  
 What events in the life of a child leave marks on his teeth? p. 53.

### PSYCHIATRY

Is there such a thing as "psycho-allergy"? p. 58.

### PSYCHOLOGY

What is psychic inertia? p. 56.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Is it possible to keep a city free of diphtheria deaths? p. 60.

### RADIO

Where is the world's most powerful television transmitter located? p. 55.