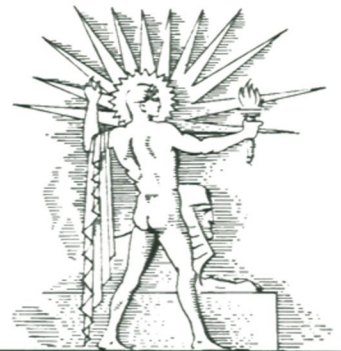


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



April 9, 1938

Stone for Steel

See Page 234

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

South America has two countries with no seacoasts; Europe has four.

A rubber pavement in England was made with discarded automobile tires.

Sheepskin, sometimes used in "kid" shoes, is more likely to stretch and scuff than goat leather.

Although Iquitos, Peru, is over 2,000 miles up the Amazon River, it is visited regularly by ocean-going vessels.

Thirty years ago coal supplied 89 per cent. of the United States' fuel energy now it supplies only 50 per cent.

The thunder god Thor of Scandinavian mythology may have come from ancient Iran, says an archaeologist.

A live porpoise weighing about 100 pounds was recently captured near St. Augustine, Florida, and is being kept in a tank.

Over 220 varieties of American grapes have been studied and given ratings at the government's experiment farm at Arlington, Va.

Despite droughts, floods, and disease, the United States is rated as probably the safest country in the world in which to raise livestock.

Head hunting has persisted among some African tribes because of the custom of a young man's taking a head to show his intended bride his courage.

QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS ISSUE

Most articles which appear in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER are based on communications to Science Service, or on papers before meetings. Where published sources are used they are referred to in the article.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Who practised "thermos bottle" burial? p. 236.

ASTRONOMY

Where can the stars of the first Easter be seen now? p. 232.

What is record height for a solar prominence? p. 233.

AVIATION

Who owns the most versatile airplane? p. 233.

CLIMATOLOGY

When were sunspots most numerous? p. 236.

ECOLOGY

What animals are most destructive to soil? p. 238.

ENTOMOLOGY—MEDICINE

What drives out the tsetse fly? p. 232.

ETHNOLOGY

Why do Liberians dislike Europeans? p. 234.

GENERAL SCIENCE

What are the Nieman Fellowships? p. 232.

GEOGRAPHY

What was the House at the North Pole made of? p. 228.

Why are colonies unprofitable? p. 233.

MEDICINE

How do brain lesions affect brain waves? p. 228.

What are the purposes of the two new "cured patients" societies? p. 235.

MEDICINE—PHYSIOLOGY

Where would radioactive iodine concentrate? p. 229.

ORNITHOLOGY

Why is Switzerland important to scientists studying birds? p. 238.

PALEONTOLOGY

When did the last ground sloth die? p. 233.

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Can there be "carriers" of elm disease? p. 232.

PSYCHOLOGY

Would you vote *ja* or *nein* in the *Anschluss* plebiscite? p. 227.

Who finds it easiest to get a job? p. 230.

PUBLIC HEALTH

How many college students are unvaccinated? p. 233.

Peruvian chemists are to hold their first chemical congress this summer.

Indians boiled down maple syrup in bark vessels, into which they dropped hot stones.

One metallurgist is said to have made his own safety razor blade, nitriding the steel, and to have used it without resharpening for two years.

Coyotes are better mousers than cats.

Engineers find hot oil when they drill deeply—in one section, petroleum as hot as boiling water was found about a mile down.

Only one Roman gateway in Britain has remained in continuous use for traffic down to the present—the Newport Arch at Lincoln.

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CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

About Coffee

1. Does "dating" guarantee good coffee?
2. How do the famous Maxwell House and Chase & Sanborn brands compare in quality with lesser known and cheaper brands?
3. What method of preparing coffee will give the most satisfactory brew?
4. What do medical investigators say about the effects of drinking coffee?
5. Which 11 brands of coffee were considered to be poor in quality by expert coffee tasters? Which 12 brands were considered good? Which one brand was considered excellent?

About Razor Blades

6. What 5 brands were rated "Best Buys" after an eight-month shaving test on 22 brands?

7. What 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ c blade was considered a better buy than three, four and five cent blades?

About Hair Removers

8. What is the surest way to remove hair permanently?
9. Are Neet, DeWans, Zip, Del-A-Tone, and X-Bazin safe and effective depilatories?

About Autos

10. Of the three low-priced cars, Ford, Chevrolet and Plymouth, which one averaged 28.85 miles per gallon of gas, which 21.99 miles per gallon, and which 21.25 miles per gallon in a test run of 314.5 miles?
11. In what order of merit did automotive experts list seven high-priced 1938 cars, including

the Packard, Cadillac and Chrysler?

About Insurance

12. Why is it hazardous to include savings with life insurance, as most policies do?
13. What kind of insurance should a person whose future income is uncertain buy?

About Other Products

14. What 2 brands of women's shorts were rated "Best Buys" after a test of 40 brands?
15. What well known brands of canned corn scored highest in tests run by official government graders on 72 brands?
16. In buying or building a home what preliminary steps are essential before making your first payment?

CONSUMERS UNION REPORTS GIVES YOU THE ANSWERS

Consumers Union Reports for March gives you the answers to the above questions; but *Consumers Union Reports* do more than just increase your stock of information. Knowledge of the answers to questions 3 and 5, for example, can definitely increase your enjoyment of coffee drinking. Knowledge of the answers to question 6 can make your shaving less of an ordeal. Knowledge of the answers to other questions can result in definite savings in your buying.

The March issue of *Consumers Union Reports*, the monthly publication of Consumers Union of United States, rates thirty-six brands of coffee on the basis of cup tests. Four special types of coffee, including the decaffeinated coffees, are also discussed and methods of brewing are compared. Tentative ratings, by name, as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable" are given of 22 brands of double-edge razor blades, based on an eight-month shaving test and on machine tests for sharpness. Forty brands of women's shorts, ranging in price from 25c to \$1.50 are reported on and rated. Ratings are given of 72 brands of canned corn. Three new-type vacuum cleaners are reported on. Sixteen models of mechanical pencils are also rated. Nineteen types of hair removers, discussed in a report which finds that serious hazards attend most methods of removing hair, are all named and rated.

In a supplement to the previous month's survey on 1938 autos, seven higher-priced models are listed in order of merit and a table is given, showing the average mileage per gallon of gas of 26 cars as determined by the annual Gilmore-Yosemite Economy Run.

CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE HOME BUILDER

The series of reports on life insurance and home building are also continued. The current article on insurance deals with the compulsory savings program which most insurance policies include. The report on home building charts a course for the prospective home buyer or builder through the maze of preliminary but highly important steps preceding the actual construction of a home.

This unusually interesting and valuable issue of the *Reports* may be had by cutting out and mailing the coupon below. In case you want the previous reports in the series on insurance or home building, we are listing the *Reports* in which they appeared (together with a partial list of the other subjects covered in them). You may start your year's subscription with any of these issues. Simply write the name of the month you wish to begin with in the coupon.

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FEB.—Ratings of 1938 Autos, Life Insurance, Home Building, Vitamins.

Consumers Union Reports—which goes to 60,000 Consumers Union members throughout the country—will show you how to buy intelligently and how to make substantial cash savings on your purchases. Become one of the thousands of American consumers who are taking part in this organized effort to get the best values for their money. Cut out and mail the membership coupon today!

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Ready Early in April!

Consumers Union's 1938 Buying Guide—which is included in the regular \$3 membership fee of Consumers Union WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE—is now going to press and will be ready for distribution early in April. This 288-page, pocket-size book will rate over 1500 products by name as "Best Buys," "Also Acceptable," and "Not Acceptable" on the basis of actual laboratory or use tests conducted by expert, unbiased technicians. This Buying Guide is not sold separately and can be obtained only through membership in Consumers Union—which also brings you twelve monthly issues of *Consumers Union Reports*. Make sure of your copy by becoming a member today.

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