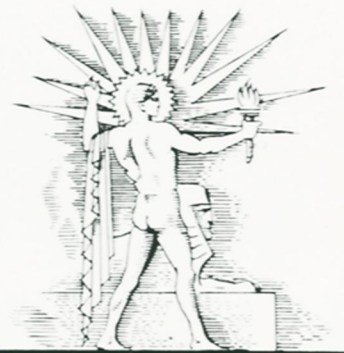


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



June 4, 1938

Spring Storm

See Page 365

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

A cork substitute is being made from potato peelings in Germany.

Not many birds will eat fuzzy caterpillars, but cuckoos seem to enjoy them.

The smallest and most primitive of wild cattle are the pigmy buffalos of Celebes island.

It is estimated that hookworm affects 5,000,000 out of the 12,000,000 people in rural districts of Egypt.

No one knows how long a dinosaur lived, but the huge ones may have had lives as long as 500 years.

If the earth were to come within 20 million miles of the sun, the earth would be 2,000 degrees hotter, and its rocks would melt to soft mud.

A young Kansas farmer has equipped his tractor with an air horn to signal his wife when he is on the last round, and will soon be in for dinner.

A study of germs on school books indicates that books are not seriously responsible for spreading infectious disease, unless the books are very old and dilapidated or have been used by sick children without proper follow-up precautions.

The theater call-boy, who knocked on dressing room doors to call the actors before curtain time, is being replaced by an installed device which enables an announcer back-stage to be heard in each dressing room.

## 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.

### AERONAUTICS

What sort of aircraft is able to travel sidewise? p. 360.

### ANTHROPOLOGY

How can anthropologists tell what the lifespan of the cave man was? p. 366.

### ASTRONOMY

How did Wolf 424 lose the distinction of being closest to the earth? p. 365.

### BIOLOGY

Will *Biological Abstracts* be published? p. 365.

### CHEMISTRY—BOTANY

What unusual discovery was made in the leaves of a hickory? p. 361.

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How did the use of acids to boost production from oil wells make trouble for petroleum engineers? p. 363.

### ENTOMOLOGY

What is the news from the battlefield of the war against grasshoppers? p. 364.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

What disease is a major culprit in taking the lives of infants and the unborn? p. 361.

### GEOLOGY

Is iridium for fountain pen points found in America? p. 359.

Where does Philippine manganese find a market? p. 364.

### PHYSIOLOGY

Why do old men like to sit by the fire? p. 359.

### PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

How can you grow plants without any soil? p. 362.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

What occupational disease is attacking workers? p. 370.

A collapsible boat of synthetic rubber is a new German invention.

Mountain trout may die of heat, if the water warms up to 75 or 80 degrees.

Phosphate rock deposits discovered and secretly investigated on Hashoma Island by a Japanese company may be so large as to make Japan self-sufficient in this fertilizer material.

The family tree started by a pair of human beings would produce 2,048,009,000,000 people in 2,000 years—if it were not for epidemics, war, and other agencies of untimely death.

Pure silk is the strongest of textile fibers.

A human being normally sheds about 30 hairs a day.

New Zealand natives made whistles of whale teeth.

Algebra gets its name from the Arabic *al-Jabr*, meaning binding together.

As early as 1694, Massachusetts ordered a closed season on hunting deer.

Observers report that motorists who travel alone drive faster than those who have passengers.

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