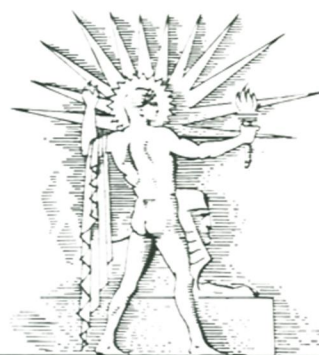


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



July 23, 1938

Strange Sails

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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

Do You Know?

Indians of some tribes used the jimson weed as a source of an anesthetic in surgery.

The only land under the United States flag ever visited by Columbus was Puerto Rico.

It sometimes takes a century to grow one of the dwarf trees so admired in Oriental gardens.

Peru and Ecuador dispute ownership of a triangle of land consisting of over 117,000 square miles.

Ivy poisoning may develop within a few hours after contact with poison ivy or it may not appear for several days.

Glass wool made from quartz sand is reported to stand very high temperatures, thereby making it useful in insulation.

The so-called eye teeth have no special connection with eyesight; but, like other teeth, the eye teeth may cause eye trouble if they become infected.

A pine tree that started life in an over-crowded grove grew three times as fast after the land was thinned, as proved by its tree ring record.

A Michigan zoologist reports finding poplar trees cut and dragged by beavers over a measured distance of 650 feet—400 feet is considered an unusually long distance for beavers to haul wood.

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.

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PHYSIOLOGY

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Does a heat wave really increase deaths? p. 51.

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What are the chances for employment for England's older men? p. 54.

VOLCANOLOGY

How do scientists sample a volcano's breath? p. 57.

The most deadly snake venom, compared drop for drop, is that from the Tiger Snake of Australia.

Saliva as an indicator of tooth health and general health is being studied at the University of California College of Dentistry.

The whole of China had only about 6,000 miles of railroad before the Japanese invasion, which is less than the United States had in 1850.

The potato was grown in Peru in prehistoric times, but Indians in Mexico never saw this vegetable until a Spanish monk brought it from Peru.

Thousands of cattle die every year from licking fresh paint off farm buildings.

Some of the trees that are technically softwoods produce lumber harder than many hardwood trees.

The new technique of gardening with chemicals, without soil, is being tried by youngsters at the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

Children do not outgrow cross-eyes, says an eye specialist—the condition nearly always grows worse unless corrected by glasses, training, or an operation.

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