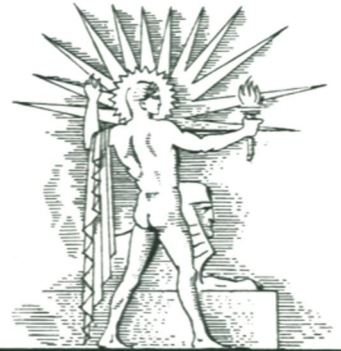
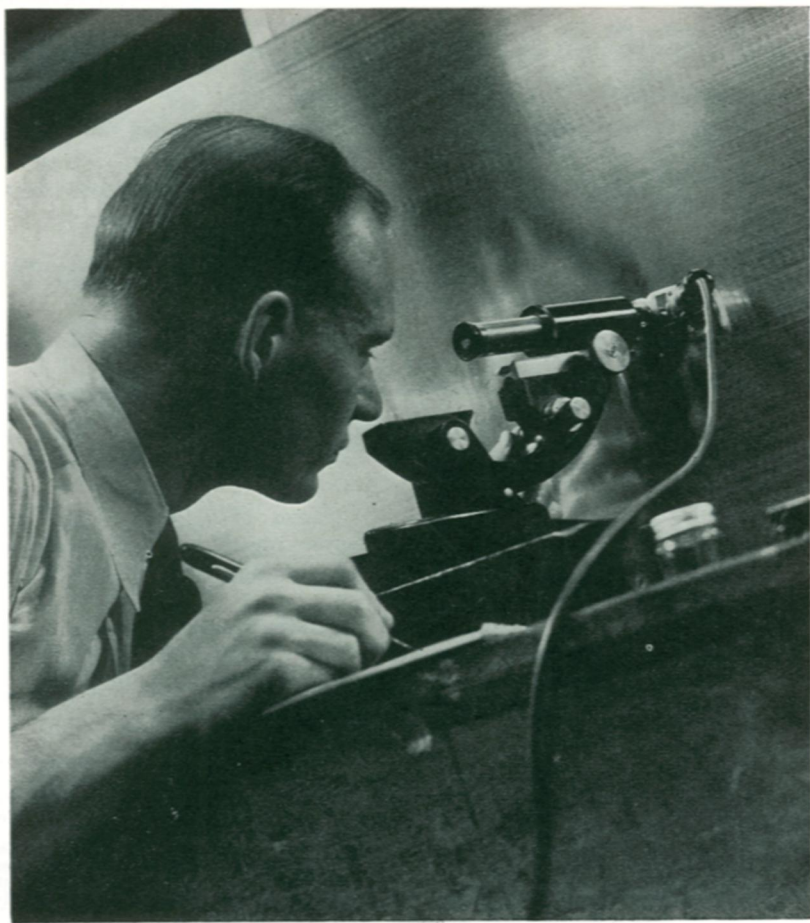


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



August 6, 1938

Inspection

See Page 87

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?

Lichens produce an acid that can cause hard rock to crumble.

Few farmers realize that they are really chemists, says a Canadian government chemist.

A prune tree does not produce fruit in commercial quantity until it is eight years old.

A British scientist says that there are probably only a few thousand gorillas left alive today in Africa.

By an ingenious device, a zoo gorilla was recently enticed on a scale and weighed—official record—427 pounds.

The ancient Pontine marsh lands reclaimed by Italy are now producing wheat and cotton, and may grow other crops.

A huge elephant shot in Africa was weighed in pieces after it was killed and its weight alive was estimated to have been 14,641 pounds.

While the Moscow-Volga canal was being dug, Soviet scientists took the opportunity to hunt for antiquities, and found traces of ancient settlements of many eras.

Although Spain's civil war is not over, the famous Alcazar in Toledo has already been turned into a museum, showing the fortifications as they were after the siege of 1936.

## 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

How old is the city of Armageddon? p. 83.

How long has cotton cloth been in use in America? p. 89.

### ASTRONOMY

How did the great bearing for the 200-inch telescope wear a sunbonnet? p. 87.

### BIOLOGY

How is the message of your pricked finger carried to your brain? p. 91.

### CHEMISTRY

How have transparent wrapping films been made suitable for wrapping your butter? p. 84.

What chance has your dog of getting a good diet from the can of dog food you buy? p. 84.

### DOCUMENTATION

What do Soviet scientists plan to use for microdocuments instead of microfilm? p. 88.

### ENTOMOLOGY

What color is preferred by leafhoppers? p. 89.

### GENERAL SCIENCE

What sacrifices are required of scientists in the interest of intellectual freedom? p. 83.

Why are visitors not permitted to touch the 200-inch telescope mirror? p. 85.

### GEOLOGY

How does the cattle-poisoning selenium get into the soil? p. 91.

### HOME ECONOMICS

How many times can the average delicate hose be worn? p. 90.

### MEDICINE

Are physicians hopeful of finding a medicine to cure cancer? p. 90.

At what age should you worry if subject to chronic dyspepsia? p. 88.

What is the Federal Government doing to reduce the danger of illuminated watch dial paint poisoning? p. 84.

What step has been taken toward discovery of a cure for deadly leukemia? p. 95.

### PALEONTOLOGY

What creature has been pronounced more rare than a toothed hen? p. 88.

### PHYSICS

Where do cosmic rays come from? p. 90.

### PHYSICS—PHYSIOLOGY

Why does the drunken man see double? p. 89.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What discovery indicates that cattle benefit from fertilizer on pasture grass? p. 94.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

What type of disease is most prevalent in the United States? p. 89.

Although Canada is rich in coal, it imports considerable amounts from the United States and Britain, because Canadian coal is so far from centers of population.

The great pyramid of Cheops has been called history's first unemployment relief project—it kept workers busy and fed them during Nile flood season, when they could not do agricultural work.

Ancient India ink came from the sepia gland product of the octopus.

Trees of different kinds sometimes grow together, either underground or by uniting of a stem or branch.

California Indians made chewing gum from the milky sap of a plant, and got tobacco from the wild tobacco plant of their region.

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