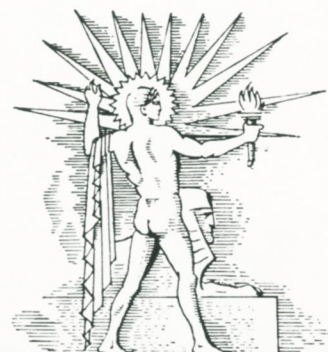
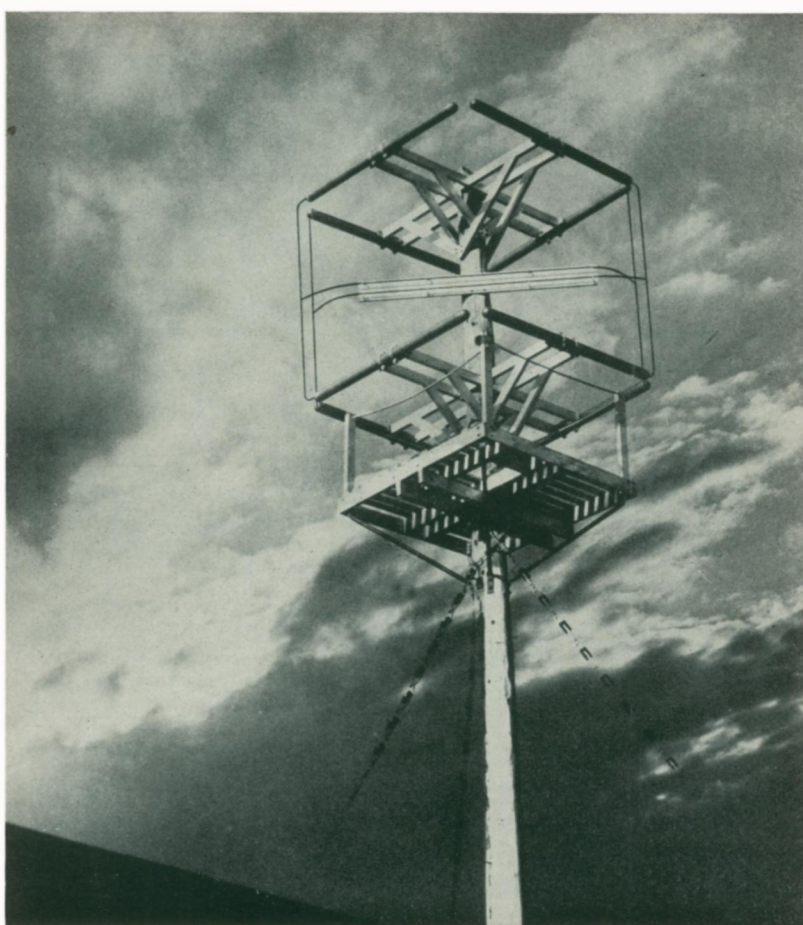


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



March 11, 1939

Cube Antenna

See Page 159

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

About 30 per cent. of Finland is peat bogs.

The pigmy shrew, Britain's smallest mammal, can rest easily on a silver dollar.

Tensile strength of cast iron has increased in 20 years from 20,000 pounds per square inch to as much as 80,000 pounds.

Under favorable conditions southern pine trees grow fast, and can be economically chipped for gum when they are 12 to 16 years old.

In checking the dimensions of automobile bearings, factories use a machine that can magnify a human hair to a diameter of 15 feet.

An electrical expert has equipped his home with an automobile doorbell—so that chimes signal the car's arrival as it runs over a switch in the drive.

The world's largest gorilla, a 550-pound male, is a figure in a new habitat group of African apes at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

To save snow water needed by crops, farmers on Canadian prairies and the Dakotas region throw up ridges of snow across the direction of prevailing winds.

The Gila Monster has a powerful venom, but its mechanism for injecting is so crude that no human being has been known to die of this lizard's bite.

## 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

How fast can American plants build war planes? p. 158.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

What did the people of Van fashion from volcanic stone? p. 148.

What happened to the wealth of the Inca? p. 147.

What vegetable was the heart of a religion among the ancient Indians? p. 151.

### BOTANY

For what plant have the plant quarantine regulations been relaxed? p. 152.

### MEDICINE

What kind of cancer afflicts Navy men? p. 157.

What new treatment for relief of the pain of arthritis is now being tested? p. 147.

What preventive has been found for the ear trouble of airplane pilots and passengers? p. 152.

### MEDICINE—SOCIOLOGY

What service can the killer, cancer, do for mankind? p. 152.

### METALLURGY

How pure can metal be? p. 148.

### METEOROLOGY

How much rain does Death Valley receive? p. 159.

### PHYSICS

How can methylene blue serve for identification purposes? p. 150.

How do scientists compute the age of the sun? p. 149.

### PHYSIOLOGY

What is the "mother love" chemical? p. 153.

### POPULATION

To what extent is birth control practiced in the United States? p. 151.

Why would Germany's population problem not be solved by return of her colonies? p. 158.

### PSYCHOLOGY

How can you learn to "read minds"? p. 150.

Why do little children set fires? p. 156.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Why is the parrot sometimes a menace? p. 154.

### STATISTICS

What proportion of murders are due to domestic quarrels? p. 152.

### ZOOLOGY—ETHNOLOGY

In what "coin" did the citizens of Franklin pay their taxes 150 years ago? p. 156.

Some South American birds migrate north, reversing the process of North American birds.

Japan and Chile are both in the earth's most active zone of earthquakes, but Chile is shaken about 1,000 times to Japan's 400.

Experiments at the University of California indicate that air-cooled poultry houses may be of value in California's interior valleys.

The United States now has 10,000 miles of highway with more than two lanes.

A British chemist comments that every year there are about 1,500 new books, 40,000 articles and 20,000 patents, of chemical interest.

Alcoholic intoxication lowers resistance to pneumonia, says the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, citing death rate figures.

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