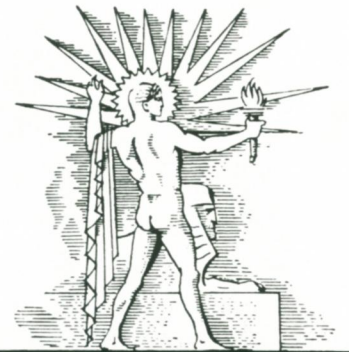
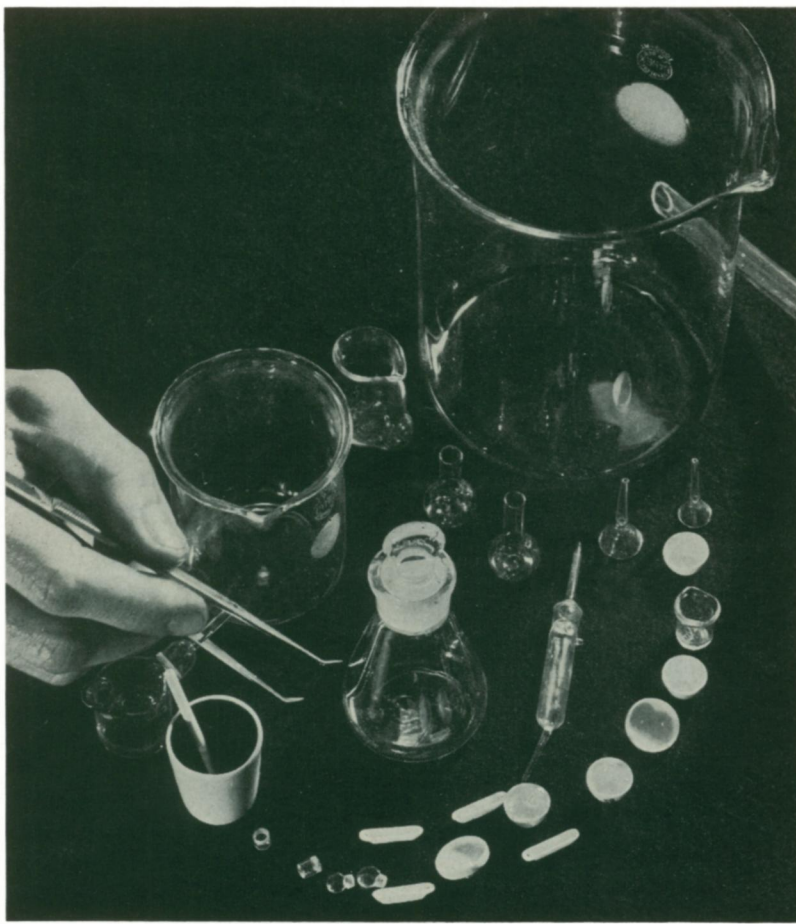


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



March 25, 1939

Chemistry in Miniature

See Page 180

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

## Do You Know?

About one-third of Switzerland's area is mountain, glacier, or lake.

The plastics industry of the United States obtains 30 per cent. of its raw material from the farm.

Sixteen states have no speed limit on their rural highways.

In 30 years, the United States has reduced blindness from the condition known as "babies' sore eyes" by 75 per cent.

British physicians have set up a research foundation to investigate rheumatic disease in training centers of the Royal Navy.

Some of Peru's Indians drink a strong narcotic brewed from Caapi leaves, to make them temporarily fearless and reckless in fighting.

Scientists in the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines get about 700 inquiries about divining rod devices every year.

To avoid dangerous gas concentrations, special ventilation is usually needed in highway tunnels over 1,500 feet long, and sometimes in shorter ones.

Chinese hunters have made such extensive drives to capture giant pandas for export to zoos that in two valleys the animals are reported to be completely wiped out.

## 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.

### AGRICULTURE

How do Brazil and the United States plan to cooperate on agricultural research? p. 182.

### ANTHROPOLOGY

Why is the importation of yard goods to be forbidden in the Dutch portion of New Guinea? p. 189.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

How did ancient Egyptians bury their cats? p. 179.

### ASTRONOMY

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Where will the April eclipse of the sun be visible? p. 186.

### CHEMISTRY

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What three menaces will civilians in a war have to fear from the air? p. 183.

### ENTOMOLOGY

What sort of weather is needed now to prevent a grasshopper plague? p. 182.

### MEDICINE

What blue dye is suggested for treatment for patients who have already turned blue? p. 188.  
What can be used to substitute for the blood in a transfusion? p. 184.

### ORNITHOLOGY

What kind of hens lay blue eggs? p. 184.

### PHYSICS

How can the speed of light be measured automatically? p. 189.  
What will the invention of a new glass mean to the miniature camera enthusiast? p. 180.  
Why does Professor Einstein feel the need for a fifth dimension? p. 179.

### PSYCHOLOGY

What periods of life are most neglected by researchers? p. 180.  
Why is the business man likely to lack a sense of humor? p. 190.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

How does a beard prevent silicosis? p. 185.

In one Assyrian palace excavated by archaeologists even the harem was found decorated with masculine art, showing the king hunting, fighting, and taking tribute.

Injecting barium into the hands of dead bodies and following its progress by X-ray enabled a surgeon to trace natural routes of spread of infection in the hand.

To obtain a super-walnut, government scientists will cross the English walnut with the butternut for flavor and hardness, then with the Eastern black walnut and the Japanese walnut for a sturdy and fruitful tree.

Woad, the blue stain with which prehistoric Britons decorated their bodies, was used as a fixer for indigo dye in the British dyeing industry until a few years ago.

Ramie fiber was extensively used in early paper making, it is learned by examining fibers in 49 Arabic manuscripts dating from the eleventh to the eighteenth century.

To show poultry farmers that they can save miles of walking by centralizing their buildings, experimenters checked the "chore routes" on 125 Oregon farms—shortest mileage was 62 miles a year; longest 450 miles.

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# Are YOU getting FULL MEASURE for your Dollar?



*Without accurate, reliable information on the comparative value of competing brands your everyday buying can be a wasteful business. With it, you can save substantial sums. This month, CU Reports helps consumers save money by reporting on soap, canned peaches and asparagus, tea, men's topcoats, can openers, and juice extractors.*

## “We will eat a bar of it while doing handsprings up Fifth Avenue”

“If any soap is soothing to any kind of skin,” says *Soap*, the leading trade magazine of the soap industry, “we will eat a bar of it while doing handsprings up Fifth Avenue.”

With the same engaging candor, *Soap* states, “To him who would advertise successfully in the intensive competitive fight for soap business, not too much attention can be paid to these minor details such as scientific exactness, strict adherence to proved facts, and misleading implications.”

With these findings, the results of recently completed tests of toilet soaps, published in this month's issue of *Consumers Union Reports*, agree. Over 150 brands are rated by name, for price and quality (you can pay anywhere from 50c to \$1.97 per pound of dry soap for certain brands but get better quality for only 9.1c); those that may irritate or actually damage the skin are pointed out.

## It's Illegal, but . . .

. . . plenty of packers put less peaches into their cans than the law requires. The names of the 21 out of 36 brands of canned peaches tested by CU which were illegally slack-filled are given in this report. Another report gives price and quality ratings of 39 brands of canned asparagus and asparagus tips.

## Good bills and bad bills . . . A bad one costs consumers plenty

New food and drug bills are now pending in 13 states. In an article describing

this legislation, the bills which should be vigorously backed and those which should be opposed are pointed out. In another article the effects of the Miller-Tydings price-fixing act — now in operation a year and a half—are discussed. The results of studies showing that this law has cost consumers many thousands of dollars are noted.

## How to be rich and successful . . .

The dazzling promises of correspondence school ads are analyzed and clues given for determining which schools are fakes and which are honest. Many an impressively-titled “institute” is but a one-room office in an obscure business building. Hundreds have been proceeded against by Federal authorities for fraudulent practices.

## “A major crime in gastronomy”

“We buy it ignorantly, prepare it abominably. . .” says a recent article on tea in a popular magazine. Far be it from Consumers Union to concur in a sweeping statement like this, but there is something to what this writer says. To help American tea drinkers acquire skill in tea purchasing, 40 brands of black, mixed, oolong and English Breakfast tea were given taste tests by tea experts and rated by name. Instructions on how to prepare tea properly are given and current advertising claims to the effect that tea “peps you up” are analyzed.

## This year the consumer will get the best value for his money . . .

. . . in men's topcoats of a certain type at a certain price level. What type and which price level may be ascertained by reading the report on men's topcoats in this issue. Twenty-three brands sold under the manufacturer's names are rated for quality and workmanship.

Other reports and articles in this issue rate can openers and fruit juice extractors and discuss phases of the sugar and insurance industries of particular significance to consumers. To get this issue just mail the coupon below.

COMING IN APRIL!—The 1939 edition of *Consumers Union's Annual Buying Guide*. Running to nearly 300 pages and rating over 2,000 brands of products by names as “Best Buys,” “Also Acceptable,” and “Not Acceptable,” this valuable handbook is included in the yearly subscription to *Consumers Union Reports* without extra charge.

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