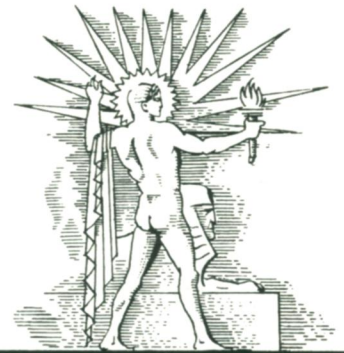


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



April 29, 1939

Heavenly Looking Glass

See Page 261

A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Do You Know?

The world's population increases at a net gain of 100,000 a day—the size of a city.

The American or bald eagle is protected by some States but not by the United States Government.

A new refrigerator has a separate compartment so cold that it would be possible to quick-freeze foods at home and keep them frozen until needed.

Puerto Rico plans to increase production of such wartime materials as alcohol, camphor, hemp, jute, palm oil, iodine, quinine, and coconut shells.

Government scientists are finding out what makes a good diet for bobwhite quail, to aid those who may propagate these birds or conserve them in the wild.

Workers in automobile factories have added to American slang a whole list of names for car parts, such as dog collar, tin hat, pancake, spider, and banjo.

Goldenrod is a boon to fishermen; they gather and store stems containing bulb-like swellings, knowing that these contain eggs which will hatch into grub bait.

Cultured pearls are usually at least three-fourths "core" in their diameter, and have a comparatively thin coating provided by the oyster, is the conclusion of Dr. A. E. Alexander of the Mellon Institute, based on study of hundreds of cultured pearls.

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 are an American team of workers attempting to preserve the designs of historic stained glass against the hazards of war? p. 264.

ASTRONOMY

What new discoveries may be expected from the new McDonald Observatory? p. 261.

What star marks the heart of the scorpion? p. 263.

Where can you see the new Hassel comet? p. 270.

BIOLOGY

What sort of diet produces increased male births among rats? p. 262.

BOTANY

Where has potential immortality been produced in a test tube? p. 260.

CHEMISTRY

How do carrots canned over a hundred years ago taste today? p. 264.

What effect would war have on America's chemical industry? p. 265.

ENGINEERING

How much has transportation progressed within a single century? p. 267.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How can plant cells be made to resemble the human heart suffering from flutter? p. 259.

How is it possible to know the exact instant when life begins for an animal? p. 259.

What vitamin need increases with age? p. 260.

INVENTION

How many new products are now ready to put on the market? p. 268.

What invention makes it possible to hem and seam garments without sewing? p. 264.

PHYSICS

What is the newest element, made in the atom smasher? p. 265.

What new type of research has been undertaken in the U.S.S.R.? p. 264.

What old magician's trick is being used to mystify museum visitors in modern New York? p. 262.

PHYSIOLOGY

Why is the saying "For every child a tooth" not considered true? p. 264.

ZOOLOGY

What animal is guilty of the bulb eating blamed on moles? p. 265.

Pet raccoons in Chicago's Trailside Museum enjoy wrestling matches that sometimes last an hour.

Some experiments have indicated that dull blue walls in operating rooms are helpful to the surgeon, causing less eye strain than white.

An Illinois naturalist reports seeing local green or grass snakes that had no blue in their coloring, leaving them a yellowish-buff; also one grass snake with the opposite condition of being black-blue, lacking the yellow in its make-up.

National Park Service naturalists counted 108 species of birds in one spring month at Boulder Dam Recreational Area.

Skill of Britain's Bronze Age metal workers is shown in a spirally twisted torque of about 1100 B. C., made from a single gold bar over 50 inches long.

Wool growers are reported to be alarmed over increasing use of delustered rayon which is cut to any length fiber desired and combined with wool so skillfully that experts find it hard to detect.

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