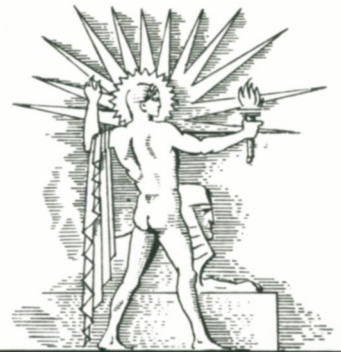
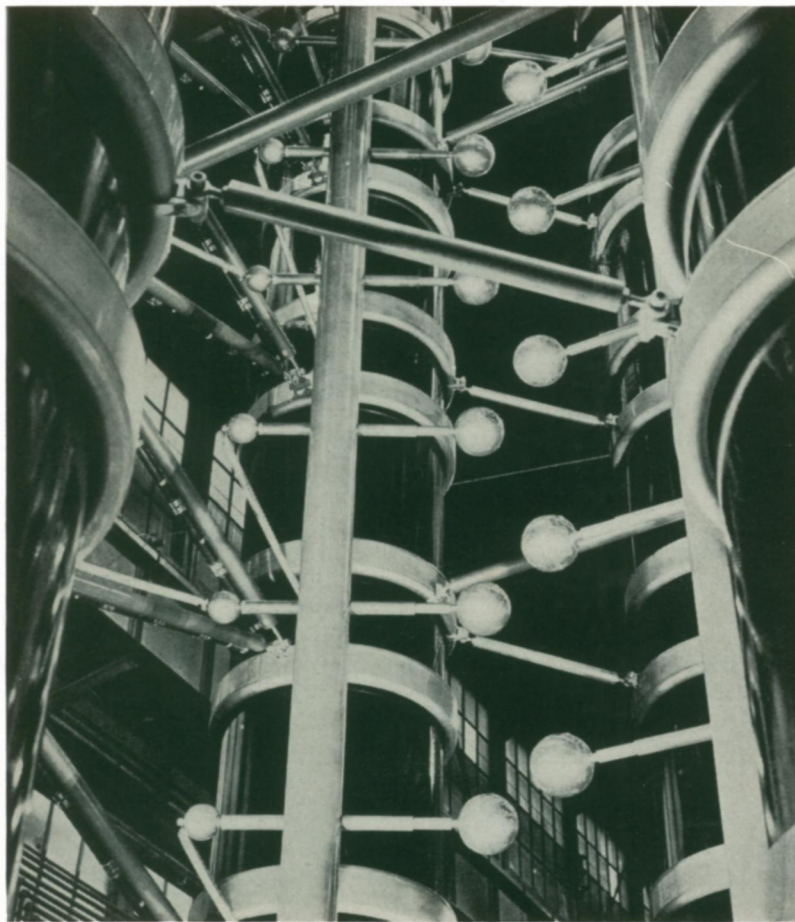


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



May 13, 1939

Thunder Maker

See Page 302

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?

Rome has a higher birthrate than any other metropolis in Europe or America—22.4 per thousand.

There is no evidence that human beings in the Old Stone Age made any kind of textiles, says an anthropologist.

Government plant scientists are trying to produce superior strawberry varieties that retain the aroma of wild eastern meadow berries.

A tiny island in a lake—the last known remnant of 23 million acres of public land in Indiana—will be put up for auction in June.

An inscription found in Palestine shows Hebrew characters in the alphabetic order used today—proving that the order has not changed in 2,500 years.

Rubber was brought to the attention of the French Academy of Science in 1736, with reports of how savages used the caoutchouc for boats, boots, and other articles.

In some hospitals, a traveling exhibit of paintings is used, so that a patient may have a picture in his room for a week or so, and then the pictures are shifted in various rooms.

The Bureau of Fisheries comments that the Pilgrims at Plymouth were not good fishermen, but would have had difficulty surviving the first winters without clams, lobsters, and other sea food.

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

What baffling problem has been solved by N.A.C.A.'s new wing? p. 292.

ASTRONOMY

How long does it take light to cross our own universe of stars? p. 291.

CHEMISTRY

How does plasticized sulfur contribute to motoring? p. 292.

What waste product can be used to remove iron from water? p. 296.

ENTOMOLOGY

Why are bees not entitled to pasture on public lands? p. 296.

MEDICINE

How do diabetics aid in promoting public health? p. 297.

Of what new crime have mice been convicted? p. 302.

What disease of dog and man has been vanquished with sulfanilamide? p. 297.

What effect has cold on cancer cells? p. 295.

MEDICINE-PHYSICS

What do reddened patches on faces mean in the history of medicine? p. 291.

PHYSICS

How are thin films used to increase reflection? p. 294.

PHYSICS-PSYCHOLOGY

What kills pain quicker than morphine? p. 293.

PHYSIOLOGY

How can deaf twins aid science? p. 296.

What vitamin is essential for the growth of all living things? p. 301.

PSYCHIATRY

What is the psychiatric explanation for hatred of business men for government? p. 298.

PSYCHOLOGY

In what way is father's favorite fortunate? p. 292.

What makes wasps warlike? p. 300.

Why can feeble-minded girls give babies better care than they receive in a poor orphan asylum? p. 300.

PSYCHOLOGY-SOCIOLOGY

What danger do population experts see in the custom of ignoring new fathers? p. 294.

There are more than 160,000 camels in Tunisia, North African French colony.

A crow can eat a hundred grasshoppers in a meal, and it eats several times a day.

Rich farm soil, well watered, may contain as many as 150,000 earthworms to the acre.

Bighorn sheep are notably sure-footed, but the violent plunge of one that stumbled in flight was recently witnessed.

Showing the strength of piano wire, a piano hanging by a single "A" natural string is exhibited at the New York World's Fair.

A follow-up survey of patients discharged from public tuberculosis sanatoria in 1933, involving 25,000 persons in 16 states, may help explain relapses in this disease.

Finding the date when an immigrant came to America will be quicker, by aid of an index of Ellis Island's records of 18 million immigrants, made by the WPA.

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CONSUMERS UNION'S *new* MEDICAL SECTION

Starting with this month's issue, a new Medical Section will appear regularly each month in *Consumers Union Reports*. It will contain authoritative medical reports on foods, drugs and cosmetics; articles on medical news and questions of public health; and pertinent information on hygiene and health.

This new department will be published under the supervision of Dr. Harold Aaron, author of "Our Common Ailment" and Special Medical Adviser to Consumers Union, with the advice and assistance of the distinguished Medical Advisory Committee listed at the left.

The new department starts with reports on—

HEADACHE REMEDIES

—of types which may provide the relief they are taken for but may also lead to addiction and to serious disability.

ANTISEPTICS

Another report, on antiseptics and mouthwashes, attempts to provide better information about these widely promoted products than that offered by advertising fantasy.

MEN'S SHOES

Elsewhere in the magazine you will find a detailed report on men's shoes with ratings of 16 brands. Two \$4 shoes top the list while five others ranging from \$2.98 to \$6.75 are considered poor values at the price. An early issue will carry a report with ratings on women's shoes.

FACE CREAMS and POWDERS

There's little difference in quality between various brands but an astonishing difference in cost—2800% in the case of the cheapest and most expensive brands of cold creams rated. 85 brands of creams and face powders are covered in these reports. Packaging practices in the face powder field constitute one of the frankest cheats in the marketplace.

GARDENING

Besides the fun in gardening, there are also excellent fresh vegetables and fine flowers to be had—provided you know which brands of seeds and fertilizers to buy, what kind of soil is best for what kind of vegetables, etc. This report gives you a few simple hints and some ratings of supplies. More paper packets of seeds than you think contain incredibly poor stuff.

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