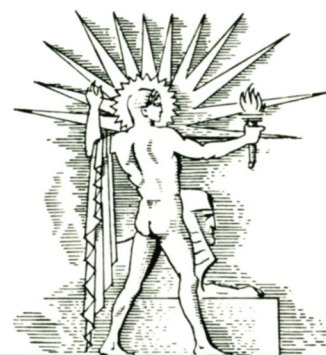


PRICE  
15¢

# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



June 3, 1939

**Aurora in a Jar**

See Page 349

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?

Argentina has 44 million sheep and 33 million cattle.

The only successful way of counting antelope is by airplane, wild-life enumerators say.

A photographic record of a fancy diving curve can be made by fastening lights to head, ankles, and back of the diver, and keeping the camera open during the dive.

A farmer who watched his dog chase a gray fox up a tree reports that the fox "used his forefeet to grasp the tree trunk and his hindfeet to scramble upward."

A truck from the National Bureau of Standards is touring the country, testing large scales up to 15,000 pounds by hoisting 1,000 pound weights on a crane and depositing each weight on the scale under test.

Quantities of clothes moths are reared by entomologists, for their experiments with anti-moth preparations, and these "guinea pig" moths must be uniformly strong and healthy to be good test subjects.

Investigating why baby turkeys are apt to develop rickets when fed on the mash that chicks thrive on, University of California scientists believe the answer is that the young turkey needs ten times as much vitamin D as the young chick does.

## 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 do the letters in airplane names stand for? p. 342.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

How was the bride of ancient Rome attired? p. 346.

What sort of treatment did patients receive in health resorts of ancient Greece? p. 343.

What weapons decorated the home of an ancient Greek game hunter? p. 348.

### ENGINEERING

What advantage has automobile streamlining in addition to speed? p. 339.

### MEDICINE

How can you kill the taste of a bitter dose? p. 345.

### NUTRITION

Where are scientists searching for a still unknown vitamin? p. 350.

Why may apples serve as an antidote for the poison of fruit sprays used on them? p. 350.

### PHYSICS

How can you produce triboluminescence in your home? p. 344.

How has atomic energy been made to produce a chemical reaction? p. 343.

What are the "tortoise and hare" of intergalactic space? p. 342.

What sort of "silo" can be used to store the sun's energy? p. 345.

Why would discovery of a large deposit of Beryllium be worth a fortune to the finder? p. 340.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

What is the extent of hunger among the world's children? p. 344.

Why are scientists studying effects of fluorine? p. 345.

Shore birds lay eggs of so nearly triangular shape that four in a nest fit together like a cut pie.

It takes over a million dollars' worth of plate glass to protect the exhibits in Chicago's Field Museum.

There is no stand of California Redwood trees in a National Forest, but a Redwood National Forest is advocated.

Metered air conditioning is a new development: the tenant pays for the cold water used each month, according to his meter record.

A private collection of 2,446 baskets made by women of 112 different Indian tribes has been presented to the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles.

The Cardiff Giant, which many people of the past century considered a petrified man, was actually a hoax object cut out of a block of Iowa gypsum.

Home economists say a varied "sky-line" is interesting in a living room, meaning to avoid the monotony of too many furnishings of the same height.

The long shape of Italy and the prevalence of mountain districts are not favorable for good radio reception, says the U. S. Department of Commerce's Electrical Division.

The hole dug for a transplanted tree should be deep and ample, says a Harvard botanist, adding: "It is always better to plant a 50-cent tree in a three-dollar hole than a three-dollar tree in a 50-cent hole."

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 35 JUNE 3, 1939 No. 22

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscriptions—\$5.00 a year; two years \$7.00; 15 cents a copy. Ten or more copies to same address, 5 cents a copy. Back numbers more than six months old, 25 cents.

In requesting change of address, please give your old address as well as the new one, at least two weeks before change is to become effective.

Copyright, 1939, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service.

Cable address: Scienservc, Washington.

Entered as second class matter at the post-

office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and in the Engineering Index.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science have privilege of subscribing to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER at \$3 a year.

The New York Museum of Science and Industry has elected SCIENCE NEWS LETTER as its official publication to be received by its members.

Advertising rates on application. Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

SCIENCE SERVICE is the Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation, with trustees nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the E. W. Scripps Estate and the journalistic profession.

Board of Trustees—Honorary President: William E. Ritter, University of California, Representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science; J. McKeen Cattell, Editor, Science; Henry B. Ward, University of

Illinois; Edwin G. Conklin, President, American Philosophical Society. Representing the National Academy of Sciences: W. H. Howell, Vice-President and Chairman of Executive Committee, Johns Hopkins University; R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology; Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory. Representing National Research Council: C. G. Abbot, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Harrison E. Howe, Editor, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry; Ross G. Harrison, Yale University. Representing Journalistic Profession: John H. Finley, Editor, New York Times; J. Edwin Murphy, Managing Editor, Baltimore Evening Sun; O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism. Representing E. W. Scripps Estate: Harry L. Smithton, Treasurer, Cincinnati, Ohio; Warren S. Thompson, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; W. W. Hawkins, Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Staff—Director Watson Davis; Writers, Frank Thone, Emily C. Davis, Jane Stafford, Marjorie Van de Water, Robert Potter, Leonard H. Engel; Correspondents in principal cities and centers of research. Photography: Fremont Davis; Librarian: Minna Gill; Sales and Advertising: Hallie Jenkins, Austin Winant, Howard Bandy.