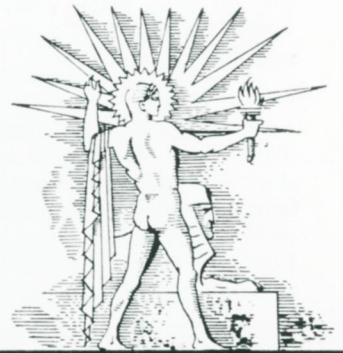


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



November 18, 1939

Nobel Prize Winner, 1939

See Page 323

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?

By painting the shells fired in big guns during target practise, it is possible to tell from the rim of paint left on the target hole which guns scored the hits.

An ice box rule to remember: Most fruits and vegetables of the temperate zone stand storage temperatures nearer freezing point than produce of tropical origin can take.

Ancient artists did not use perspective as we know it, one reason being that the principle of parallel receding lines converging to a common vanishing point was not understood until the Renaissance era.

Greek myths about the adventurous quest of the Golden Fleece may have had some basis in actual Greek commerce: rough wool skins or woolen cloths were used in the Near East to pick up gold particles in streams.

Corduroy, not exactly the same cloth used for clothing, but a special weave with cut threads, is used to catch gold at placers and in milling plants when the precious metal won't amalgamate with mercury, the U. S. Bureau of Mines reports.

"Every explosion of a mine, torpedo or depth-bomb, whether or not it sinks a ship, is capable of destroying enough herring or other fish to feed the inhabitants of a village for months," says Dr. Robert C. Murphy, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

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.

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PSYCHOLOGY

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The United States ordinarily gets half its furs from other countries.

The wax film used commercially to protect high-grade vegetables is very thin and washes off quickly in warm water.

Twenty minutes is as long as children can stand without fatigue, it was found during the measuring of American children for standardizing clothing sizes.

Plague disappeared in England about 1680, after five epidemics in 140 years.

Making plastics from coffee beans is a new South American development which may provide an outlet for surplus coffee.

London's famous Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew have been closed to the public, because it was impossible to construct adequate air raid shelters there.

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