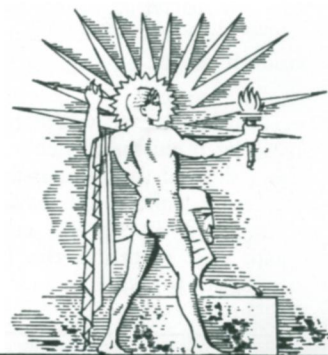
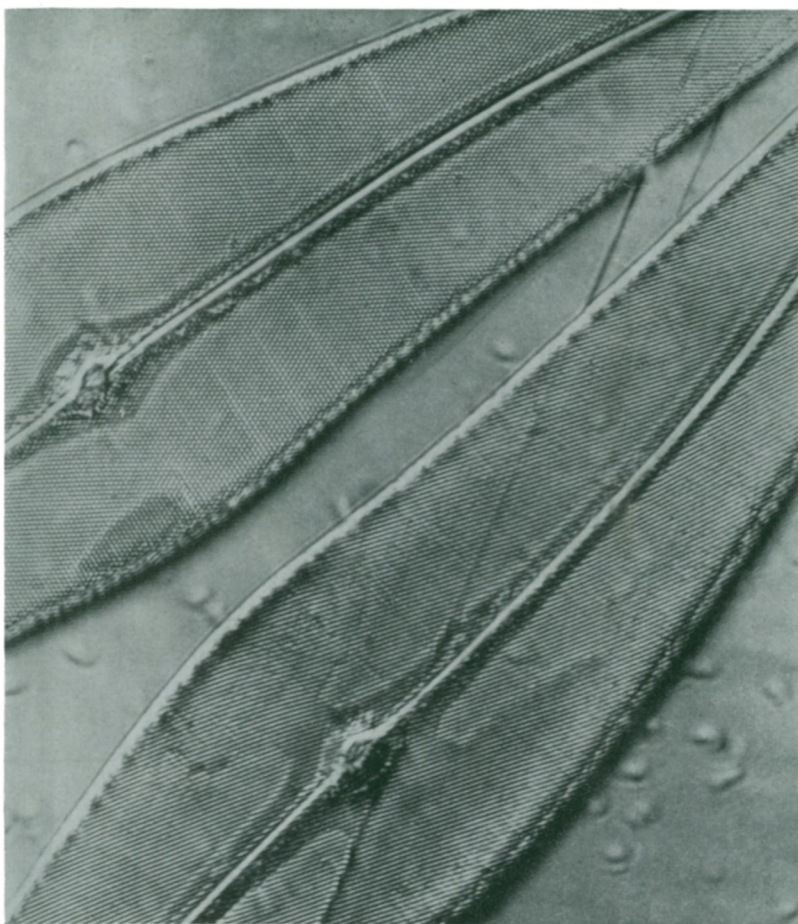


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SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE ●



December 30, 1939

Test For Fine Lenses

See Page 421

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?

Ninety-nine per cent. of the machetes, all-purpose knives used in tropical America, are made in Connecticut.

Ancient Egypt began its year in the middle of October, when the Nile flood was receding and seed-planting time began.

Federal inspection of public land tracts sometimes calls for examining tiny areas, one being an inch wide and 70 feet long.

In camouflaging factories, paints produce the effect of a row of cottages; and even illusion of a road may be achieved by paint on landscape and roofs.

The most promising curb for the Japanese beetle pest is "milky disease," which attacks the beetle grubs, turning the body fluids milky white, but even this does not promise to eliminate the pest.

The mouths of animals under normal conditions are reported to be cleaner than the mouth of man, due to chemical difference in the saliva which results in low bacterial count and absence of those bacteria which move about the mouth cavity.

Finding a cave which had been occupied by prehistoric Pueblo Indians, CCC boys showed their understanding of conservation policies by leaving the water jar, gourd dipper and other objects in place and reporting the find for archaeologists to examine undisturbed.

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.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Why is the newly discovered Pithecanthropus skull of great importance to science? p. 425.

MEDICINE

What is the newest life-saving member of the sulfanilamide family? p. 425.

What new weapon is being used against undulant fever? p. 425.

GENERAL SCIENCE

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How do plants recovering from virus disease differ from human convalescents? p. 422.

What are the gravest dangers to democracy? p. 419.

What distinguishes Acadians today from their American neighbors? p. 421.

What effect have students' health defects on college grades? p. 422.

What has been discovered about the comparative sensitiveness of right and left hands and feet? p. 422.

What is considered a most important duty of science in the present emergency? p. 420.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What diseases still claim high death tolls? p. 423.

More than half of the regular Indian Service employees are now Indians.

Paper picnic plates are being made with aluminum foil facing, for greater strength.

Forty-six swordfish have been tagged by shooting marked darts into them in the past two years, in hope of finding out where they travel.

Alaskan conservation officials have swapped a black timber wolf and a pair of wolverines to Wisconsin in exchange for some pheasants.

Red and green neon lights are being tried out as under-water lures to attract insects—a new idea in providing food for fish in hatcheries.

A New Jersey machinist as a hobby built an automobile entirely by hand, and working five hours a day average, he spent 12 years on the job.

Some of the most life-like snakes and fishes in museums are now made of molded rubber.

A generous portion of raw cranberry relish may add considerable vitamin C to the diet, says a nutritionist.

To feed Greater London's 9,500,000 people would require farm lands slightly bigger than the whole of Ireland.

Although Oxford University is on a wartime basis, it is continuing scheduled work on its new chemical and physics laboratories.

London is trying out its first "producer-gas" bus, which is equipped with a stove device for consuming hard coal, charcoal, or peat.

In early days in Australia, missionaries agreed to standardize spelling of native names, and accepted a single way of pronouncing vowels.

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