

SCIENCE

Vol. 91

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1940

No. 2359

<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>The Nation and Petroleum Geology To-day:</i> HUGH D. MISER	249
<i>The Case against the Cell Theory:</i> PROFESSOR BASILE J. LUYET	252
<i>Obituary:</i>	
<i>Royal Norton Chapman:</i> DR. WALTER CARTER. <i>Recent Deaths and Memorials</i>	255
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>The British Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development; The Practice of Medicine and the Sherman Anti-Trust Law; The Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol; The Chemist Advisory Council; The Herzstein Lectures; Summer Meetings of Ecologists</i>	257
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	259
<i>Discussion:</i>	
<i>Conifer Inflorescence Again:</i> DR. G. R. WIELAND. <i>Natural Occurrence of Tularemia in Beaver and Its Transmission to Man:</i> DR. JOHN W. SCOTT. <i>Systematic Histoplasmosis in the United States:</i> DR. J. D. REID, DR. J. H. SCHERER and H. IRVING. <i>Scientific Publications Needed in France:</i> DR. ALAN GREGG	262
<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Chemistry:</i> DR. C. A. BROWNE. <i>Bacterial Metabolism:</i> PROFESSOR J. HOWARD MUELLER	265
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>A Kinesthetically Controlled Maze Habit in the Rat:</i> PROFESSOR WALTER S. HUNTER. <i>A Radioactive Isotope Study of the Absorption of Phosphorus and Sodium by Corn Seedlings:</i> DR. A. KEITH BREWER and ARTHUR BRAMLEY. <i>A Method of Studying the Availability of Various Substrates for Human Brain Metabolism during Therapeutic Insulin Shock:</i> JOSEPH WORTIS and DR. WALTER GOLDFARB	267
<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i>	
<i>Eggshell Cap Method of Incubating Chick Embryos:</i> DR. JOHN W. PRICE and ERNEST V. FOWLER. <i>A Supplementary Method for the Study of Arachnopia:</i> DR. A. E. TAFT	271
<i>Science News</i>	10

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00

Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

THE NATION AND PETROLEUM GEOLOGY TO-DAY¹

By HUGH D. MISER

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OUR nation is entrusted with a rich heritage of abundant petroleum. The annual output of this essential mineral fuel may be expressed in barrels and dollars, but to offer a fitting measure of its importance would require an appraisal of the service of petroleum in terms of human welfare and progress.

Chief among the many uses of petroleum is the generation of power. Such power drives 30 million motor vehicles on the nation's highways, 1½ million tractors on American farms, our merchant vessels and Navy on the ocean and our planes in the air. Altogether one third the mechanical energy produced in the United

States comes from petroleum. Also, crude petroleum provides the plentiful supply of lubricants that has made possible our machine age.

The modern petroleum industry dates from the drilling of the Drake well in Pennsylvania in 1859 and, although the industry now encircles the earth, our country leads in the development of the industry and it produces and consumes three fifths of the world's oil. Also, our known oil reserves are equal to those of the rest of the world.

PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM

The value of our petroleum output for 1938 expressed in dollars is one third the value of the entire annual mineral production of the United States. The next mineral product in point of value is coal, the next is natural gas, and then follows iron. Further

¹Address of the vice-president and chairman of the section on Geology and Geography, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Columbus, Ohio, December 27, 1939. Published by permission of the director of the Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior.

Science

91 (2359)

Science **91** (2359), 249-272.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/91/2359.citation>

PERMISSIONS

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.