ASK THE SCIENTIST

If you have a question to ask the scientists, mail it to the New York Press Association, The Castle, Syracuse, 10, New York. The Science Board of the Radio Workshop at Syracuse University will answer each week in the Andover News those questions considered most interesting and timely.

Question 1. Who first introduced the word "vitamin" into the English language? What is the approved definition of a vitamin?

ANSWER. In 1911, Casimir Funk, an English biochemist, extracted a very small amount of a crystalline substance from rice polishings. It could cure paralysis in birds and apparently was a factor required in the cure of human beriberi. Since the substance contained basic or "amine nitrogen," as the chemist would say, and since it was essential to life (vital), Funk coined the word "vitamine." Later the final "e" was dropped when it was learned that an "amine" group was not necessarily characteristic of "vitamines."

A vitamin is an essential organic constituent of the diet which is indisensable in minute amounts for the normal functions of the body. The vitamins do not furnish energy themselves, but without them the energy from our food (protein, fat, carbohydrate) could not be properly utilized. Some of them have been shown to function as parts of enzyme systems, systems which catalyze or control living processes. — Dr. P. M. Ruoff, chemist.

Question 2. For the past several months, I have been watching what is to me a new constellation. When I first noticed it, it consisted of four or five stars placed irregularly in the eastern sky in the early evening. Since that time (last fall) they have changed their positions and now form a slightly askew parallelogram almost overhead about 10 p. m. What is the name of this group of stars?

ANSWER The "new constellation" to which the observer refers is due to the presence of the planets Mars and Saturn in the constellation of Gemini. In March these planets formed a rectangle with the two bright stars known as the Gemini twins, Castor and Pollux. Since March the stars have shifted their position. Mars is now considerably to the east of the Gemini twins and Saturn has moved a slight amount eastward from these two stars. — Dr. William Frederickson, physicist.

Question 3. How and when do weevils get in beans and what can be done to keep them out?

ANSWER. The common bean weevil lays its eggs on or in the pods of the beans growing in the field, either in holes made, or in cracks caused by the pods splitting. The larvae gnaw their way to and into the beans. Development from the egg to the adult occur within the bean and the adult finally escapes through a circular hole it has cut in the skin after having spent from three weeks to nearly three months there, according to the temperature where the beans are kept.

The original attacks of these insects are upon growing plants out-of-doors. Here no control seems possible. When the crop is gathered, however, treatment can easily be given by shelling at once, placing the seed in gas-tight receptacles, and fumigating it with carbondisulfide, using this at the rate of at least 8 or 10 lbs. for every 1,000 cu. ft. of space in the container, and continuing the treatment for at least one day—better two.

The disulphide may be poured directly onto the top of the seeds. For best results this should be done in a place where the temperatue is at least 75 degrees F. Then the seed should be placed in weevil-tight boxes, but it would be wise to examine it again after a time, and if living weevils are still present, give it another treatment.

Where the seed is not being used as food, packing it in air-slaked lime at the rate of one part by weight of lime to two or three parts by weight of seed has proved satisfactory. Even where use as a food is intended, this method can be used if the seed is thoroughly washed before cooking. Cold storage below 34 degrees F. will prevent development of the insects. If seed is raised to 131 degrees F. and kept at that temperaature for an hour, this will kill all weevils present. But treatment will not prevent germination. None of these methods will prevent reinfestation. — Dr. G. J. Kaston, zoologist.

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STITUTION, IN RELATION TO COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section six of article three of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

§ 6. Each member of the legislature shall receive for his service [an] *a like* annual salary [of two thousand five hundred dollars], *to be fixed by law.* He shall also be reimbursed for his actual traveling expenses in going to and returning from the place in which the legislature meets, not more than once each week while the legislature is in session. Senators, when the senate alone is convened in extraordinary session, or when serving as members of the court for the trial of impeachments, and such members of the assembly, not exceeding nine in number, as shall be appointed managers of an impeachment, shall receive an additional *per diem* allowance [of ten dollars a day], *to be fixed by law. Any member, while serving as an officer of his house or in any other special capacity therein or directly connected therewith not hereinbefore in this section specified, may also be paid and receive, in addition, any allowance which may be fixed by law for the particular and additional services appertaining to or entailed by such office or special capacity. Neither the salary of any member nor any other allowance so fixed may be increased or diminished during, and with respect to, the term for which he shall have been elected, except once by law enacted prior to April first, nineteen hundred forty-eight, and relating only to service after its enactment; nor shall he be paid or receive any other or extra compensation. The provisions of this section and laws enacted in compliance therewith shall govern and be exclusively controlling, according to their terms. Members shall continue to receive the same salary and additional allowance as heretofore fixed and provided in this section, until changed by law pursuant to this section.*

§ 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the next succeeding general election of members of the assembly and, in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution, be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER EIGHT

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION SIX OF ARTICLE THREE OF THE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO THE COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section six of article three of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

§ 6. Each member of the legislature shall receive for his services an annual salary of [two thousand five hundred] *five thousand* dollars. He shall also be reimbursed for his actual traveling expenses in going to and returning from the place in which the legislature meets, not more than once each week while the legislature is in session. [Senators, when the senate alone is] *Each member, when* convened in extraordinary session, or when serving as members of the court for the trial of impeachments, and such members of the assembly, not exceeding nine in number, as shall be appointed managers of an impeachment, shall receive an additional allowance of [ten] *twenty* dollars a day.

§ 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur) That the foregoing amendment be referred to the next regular legislative session convening after the next general election of members of the assembly, and in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER NINE

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION TWO OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO ABSENTEE VOTING

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section two of article two of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

§ 2. The legislature may, by general law, provide a manner in which, and the time and place at which, qualified voters who may, on the occurrence of any [general] election, be unavoidably absent from the [state or county] *place* of their residence because they are inmates of a soldiers' and sailors' home or of a United States veterans' bureau hospital, or because their duties, occupations or business, *or those of members of their families,* require them to be elsewhere [within the United States], may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes [in the election district in which they respectively reside].

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the next succeeding general election of members of the assembly and, in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution, be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER TEN

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION TWO OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO REGISTRATION AND VOTING BY QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE ACTUAL MILITARY SERVICE OF THE STATE OR OF THE UNITED STATES

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section two of article two of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

§ 2. The legislature may, by general law, provide a manner in which, and the time and place at which, qualified voters who may, on the occurrence of any general election, be unavoidably absent from the state or county of their residence because they are inmates of a soldiers' and sailors' home or of a United States veterans' bureau hospital, or because their duties, occupation or business require them to be elsewhere within the United States, may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election [district] *districts* in which they respectively reside.

The legislature, notwithstanding any other provision of this article, by general law, also may provide a manner in which and the time and place at which, in time of war or otherwise, qualified voters in the actual military service of the state, or of the United States, in the army or navy thereof, and their wives and dependents, who may be absent from the state or county of their residence on the occurrence of any general election, may register and vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election districts in which they respectively reside.

§ 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the next succeeding general election of members of assembly and in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER ELEVEN

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION ONE OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO THE RIGHT OF CERTAIN ABSENT ELECTORS TO VOTE AT ELECTIONS IN TIME OF WAR.

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section one of article two of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Every citizen of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a citizen for ninety days, and an inhabitant of this state for one year next preceding an election, and for the last four months a resident of the county, city, or village and for the last thirty days a resident of the election district in which he or she may offer his or her vote, shall be entitled to vote at such election in the election district of which he or she shall at the time be a resident, and not elsewhere, for all officers that now are or hereafter may be elective by the people, and upon all questions which may be submitted to the vote of the people, provided, however, that in time of war no elector *either* in the [actual military service] *armed forces* of the state[,] or of the United States, [in the army or navy thereof] *or who is serving in the merchant marine of the state or of the United States, or who is attached to and serving with the armed forces of the United States,* shall be deprived of his or her vote by reason of his or her absence from such election district; and the legislature shall provide the manner in which and the time and place at which such absent electors may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, after January first, one thousand nine hundred twenty-two, no person shall become entitled to vote by attaining majority, by naturalization or otherwise, unless such person is also able, except for physical disability, to read and write English.

§ 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the next succeeding general election of members of assembly and, in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution, be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER TWELVE

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION NINETEEN OF ARTICLE SIX OF THE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO PERMITTING CERTAIN JUDGES TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OR STATE OF NEW YORK

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section nineteen of article six of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

§ 19. All judges, justices and surrogates shall receive for their services such compensation as is now or may hereafter be established by law, provided only that such compensation shall not be diminished during their respective terms of office. Except as in this article provided, all judicial officers shall be elected or appointed at such times and in such manner as the legislature may direct. No one shall be eligible to the office of judge of the court of appeals, justice of the supreme court, surrogate, or judge of any other court of record who is not an attorney and counselor of this state except in the county of Hamilton as to the office of county judge or surrogate. No judge or justice shall sit in any appellate court in review of a decision made by him or by any court of which he was at the time a sitting member. No person shall hold the office of judge or justice of any court or the office of surrogate longer than until and including the last day of December next after he shall be seventy years of age. The judges of the court of appeals and the justices of the supreme court shall not hold any other public office or trust, except that they shall be eligible to serve as members of a constitutional convention *and to serve in any capacity in the armed forces of the United States of America and the State of New York.* All votes for any such judges or justices for any other than a judicial office or as a member of a constitutional convention, given by the legislature or the people, shall be void. No judicial officer except justices of the peace, shall receive to his own use any fees or perquisites of office. A judge of the court of appeals, a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of general sessions of the county of New York, a justice of the city court of the city of New York, and a county judge or surrogate elected in a county having a population exceeding one hundred and twenty thousand, shall not practice as an attorney or counselor in any court of record in this state nor act as referee in any action or proceeding. The legislature may impose a similar prohibition upon county judges or surrogates in other counties. No district attorney or assistant to or deputy of a district attorney shall appear or act as attorney or counsel for the defendant in any criminal case or proceeding in any court of the state, nor shall any county judge, special county judge, surrogate, or special surrogate appear or act as counsel for a defendant in any criminal case or proceeding pending in his own county or in any adjacent county.

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the next succeeding general election of members of assembly and, in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution, be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER THIRTEEN

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION ONE OF ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO SKI TRAILS ON FOREST PRESERVE LANDS

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section one of article fourteen of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the state from constructing, completing and maintaining any highway heretofore specifically authorized by constitutional amendment, nor from constructing and maintaining not more than twenty miles of ski trails thirty to eighty feet wide on the north, east and northwest slopes of Whiteface mountain in Essex county, *nor from constructing and maintaining not more than twenty miles of ski trails thirty to eighty feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto, on the slopes of Belleayre mountain in Ulster and Delaware counties and not more than thirty miles of ski trails thirty to eighty feet wide, together with appurtenances thereto, on the slopes of Gore, South and Pete Gay mountains in Warren county.*

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the next regular legislative session convening after the next general election of members of the assembly and, in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution, be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER FOURTEEN

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION ONE OF ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO THE USE OF THE FOREST PRESERVE FOR RECREATION

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That section one of article fourteen of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the state from constructing, completing and maintaining any highway heretofore specifically authorized by constitutional amendment, nor for constructing and maintaining not more than twenty miles of ski trails thirty to eighty feet wide on the north, east and northwest slopes of Whiteface mountain in Essex county. *No provision of this article shall deny the right of any citizen otherwise entitled thereto to take gold, silver or other metals, ores or minerals from any lands in the forest preserve as shall be authorized by law.*

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the next regular legislative session convening after the next general election of members of the assembly and, in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution, be published for three months previous to the time of such election.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NUMBER FIFTEEN

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION ONE OF ARTICLE FOURTEEN OF THE CONSTITUTION, IN RELATION TO THE TAKING OF GOLD, SILVER AND OTHER METALS AND MINERALS FROM LANDS IN THE FOREST PRESERVE

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section one of article fourteen of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the state from constructing, completing and maintaining any highway heretofore specifically authorized by constitutional amendment, nor from constructing and maintaining not more than twenty miles of ski trails thirty to eighty feet wide on the north, east and northwest slopes of Whiteface mountain in Essex county. *No provision of this article shall deny the right of any citizen otherwise entitled thereto to take gold, silver or other metals, ores or minerals from any lands in the forest preserve as shall be authorized by law.*

§ 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the next regular legislative session convening after the next general election of members of the assembly and, in conformity with section one of article nineteen of the constitution, be published for three months previous to the time of such election

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