

New Machines And Gadgets

Novel Things for Better Living

How close to the curb is the car you are trying to park? About the only way you can tell is to open the door on the right side and look out—very inconvenient when someone is occupying the righthand seat. The difficulty is remedied by a parking mirror that has been recently patented. It is a cylindrical mirror just outside of and over the right-hand door, giving the driver a view of objects adjacent to that side of the car. In one form of the invention, the device is clamped to the door hinge, thus avoiding boring any holes in the car.

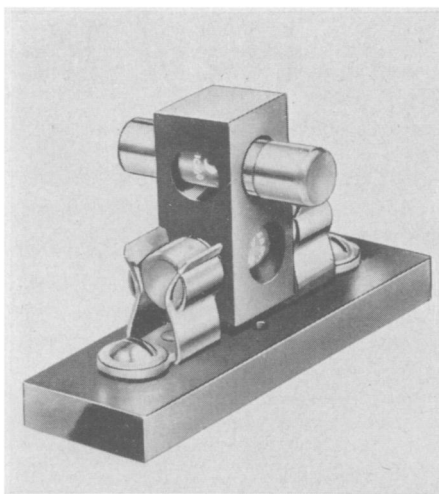
"Fill 'er up!" And the filling station attendant does and perhaps spills half a gallon on the ground. This wastage of gasoline can be avoided by use of a new inexpensive device. The operator feels a throb in the valve handle when the tank is full.

The small trickle of water that issues from a faucet on the top floor when several persons on the floors below are using the water is very exasperating. The National Bureau of Standards in Washington has issued a bulletin showing how this can be avoided by proper designing of the pipe sizes. In the average small home the plumber just chooses the sizes by guess work, often using the same size throughout. The bulletin also tells the best materials to use in places where the water has a corrosive or caking action.

Soldering wires together to make a good electric connection will become mere child's play to even the most unhandy handicraftsman with use of a new little device that is really different. Just twist the ends of the wires together and slip the device over them. This is a little nugget of the proper mixture of solder and flux enclosed in a heat generating shell. Touch a match to it and it all burns up, leaving the wires neatly soldered.

Mud houses may solve the problem of low-cost housing in some parts of the country. Now, don't be shocked. California Missions, built more than two centuries ago of adobe bricks, which are simply mud and clay mixed with straw and dried in the sun, are still standing and in good condition. Adobe is still an important building material in the Southwest. Besides, we have now improved forms of earth materials, such as bitudobe, terracrete, etc. The Bureau of Standards has tested a number of these for strength, heat insulation and water permeability, and has recently issued a report.

Changing a fuse is almost a pleasure with the device shown in the illustration. The crosswise fuse is a spare and



serves also as a handle by which the whole thing can be pulled out, when the operating fuse has blown. The device is then turned over and the spare fuse brought into circuit. The burnt fuse comes out on top where it can be replaced by a fresh one.

A hair clipper on the vacuum cleaner principle is the subject of a recent patent. The bag for receiving the hair, sucked from the clipper through a tube, is hung from the barber's shoulder by means of a strap.

Lumps of sugar individually wrapped insure to the consumer a sanitary and dust-free product. But it is some little task and takes time to get the wrappers off. This inconvenience is done away with by a new form of wrapper that has lately been patented. Two lumps are included in one package and the paper is perforated all around where the two lumps meet. A little projecting tab may be grasped and the two lumps pulled apart with one quick motion.

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to Science News Letter, 1719 N. St. N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 89.

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GENERAL SCIENCE

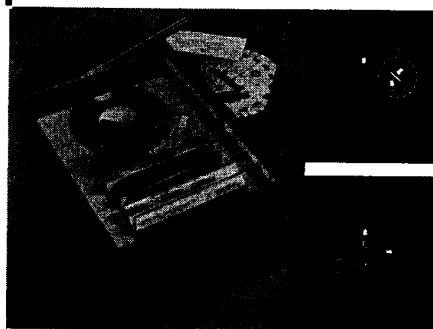
Scientific Valedictorians In High School of Science

WHEN Bertrand Stolzer and Eugene Plofker explained and demonstrated "electric eyes" or photoelectric cells from the graduation platform of Bronx High School of Science on Tuesday evening, Jan. 27, they turned into a tradition the novel idea of having "scientific valedictorians."

This was the second commencement of the unusual High School of Science, with its boys all interested primarily in science and engineering careers. The photoelectric cells and some of the apparatus used in the demonstration were built in the shops and laboratories of the school.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1942

Use the Optical Disc for Polarization Experiments with this New Polaroid* Kit



With this inexpensive new kit as an accessory, the Optical Disc may be used for showing classes in elementary science and physics the principles of polarized light now so important in everyday life. The kit contains one Polaroid J-Filter, a double-refracting disc, metal V-block holder, strip of black glass, a strip of Polaroid J-Glass, viewing screen, all of which attach to the face of the disc in the usual manner. Also: 48-page text and instruction manual.

**Price: Optical Disc Kit,
No. 430, \$7.50**

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* T. M. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.