

New Machines And Gadgets

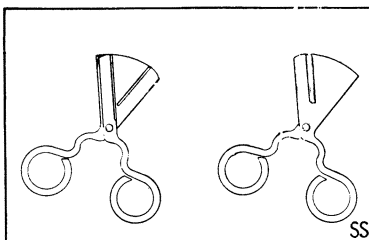
Novel Things for Better Living

To prevent rusting of fine tools or measuring instruments, they may be packed in air-tight containers in which a wide-mouth open bottle containing a few lumps of calcium chloride is placed. This substance absorbs moisture from the air. After some months the chemical will have absorbed so much moisture as to have become liquid. It should then be renewed or it can be recovered for further use by heating until all the water is driven off.

"Got a match, Buddy?" The cigaret smoker always would if his smokes came in a newly patented package. With it, you tear off a narrow strip of perforated paper near the bottom of the fresh package. This exposes the lower ends of a row of ten cardboard matches lying between an inner and an outer wrapper. As each match is drawn out from between the two wrappers, with it comes away a little perforated square of the upper wrapper which held it in place. When the first ten are used another row is exposed—twenty matches for twenty cigarets.

A plastic photo-flashlamp, that has many advantages over the conventional glass flashlamp, has just been patented. In the first place, it is made in the form of a wallet or pocketbook, flat, so that many can be stacked together in small space and easily carried or stored. Second, it is cheaper and simpler than the glass flashlamp; and third, less subject to breakage. The plastic is preferably, the inventor says, cellulose acetate, which is transparent, heat resistant, and strong enough not to explode. The lamp is fired electrically in the usual way, but using three ignition points, produces a very intense and short flash.

Safety scissors, so constructed that you cannot get your finger or anything else but the material you are cutting between the blades, are shown in the illustration here. They have recently



been patented. One blade of this scissors is of the ordinary type, but the other is a wide plate, V shaped in outline, with the pivot near the bottom of the V. This plate has a slot in the position where the other blade of the scissors normally would be. One edge of this slot is sharpened and is in fact the other blade. The material to be cut is slid into the slot. The other (normal) blade slides over the plate in cutting the material. Since the V plate covers the whole distance between the cutting edges, whether opened or closed, nothing can get between the cutting edges but the material in the slot.

Blowout perils are reduced by a recent patented invention which prevents the sudden deflation of a tire, the usual cause of accident, when a blowout occurs. The tire is divided into an inner and an outer chamber by means of an intervening wall, so that when the air blows out of the outer chamber, the inner chamber will still carry the vehicle—limpingly—until repairs can be made. To provide for inflation and deflation—as when demounting the tire—there must be an opening in the wall between the two chambers. This may be provided with a valve that will close when there is a sudden release of pressure in the outer chamber. This has been tried before but not found entirely satisfactory. The present invention improves the valve by calling to aid centrifugal force which keeps the valve always securely closed so long as the vehicle is running above a particular speed—without waiting for release of pressure to operate it.

Nailing machines are used in the box-making industry. In the usual arrangement, the box is turned over and over and all the nails are driven in the side that is uppermost. To speed up the operations, a machine has been invented and patented which nails all three sides of the box in one operation,

thus avoiding turning the box over three times.

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 97.

Science News Letter, March 28, 1942



SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA

Sponsored by Science Service

NEWS OF CLUBS

ONEONTA, N. Y.—An invitation is being extended to junior scientists, under eighteen years of age, to participate in the Fourth Annual Science Congress of the Oneonta Science Center. Young scientists from the counties of Otsego, Delaware, Schoharie, Broome and Chenango in New York State are encouraged to enter. The event will be held in the Junior High School at Oneonta on May 2, 1942. While primarily intended for members of Science Clubs of America, invitation has been extended also to non-members to demonstrate what they can do with their favorite subjects. Cooperating to make the event a success are Science Service, the Oneonta High School and Hartwick College. The purpose, of course, is to bring together the science clubs and science teachers in the territory covered by the Oneonta Science Center which is directed by Mrs. Madeline Frink Coutant.

JACKSON, Mich.—The activities of science groups in this city have spread into many fields. This year all age groups are cooperating to make the Fifth annual Science Fair for Jackson County an outstanding success. For the past four years the Science Club of East Intermediate School has held Science Fairs for city and county school clubs. This year the Science Fair hopes to have representatives of city and county civic organizations, industries and community groups participate in the activities. Based upon the pioneering work done by Miss Bertha E. Slye and her club members, Elwood Watson, director of the City's Recreational Council, is urging a mass effort of scientifically-minded persons to create and maintain interest in the subjects.

In the Jackson Citizen-Patriot, the local newspaper cooperating on the Science Fair, Mr. Watson says: "With scientific work attaining a new high in public interest since America's entry into the war, those in charge of the student enterprise feel that additional participation in science is essential to greater scientific developments in years to come."

The Fifth Annual County Fair for Jackson County will be held April 27 to May 2 in the basement auditorium of the Jackson County Building.

Clubs are invited to become affiliated with SCA for a nominal \$2 for 20 members or less. You can become an associate of SCA for 25 cents. Address: Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

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