

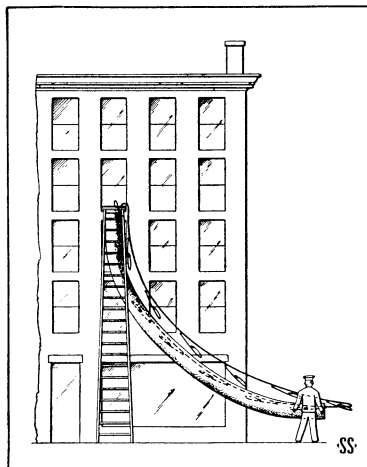
New Machines And Gadgets

Novel Things for Better Living

Galvanized nails may become scarce because the zinc required is needed for war work. Yet nails that will not rust are very necessary for shingles and ships and other such uses. A synthetic resin is now available in which the nails can be dipped, and this resin makes them as rustproof as the galvanizing process. Also it is said not to make the nails obnoxious or toxic to workers who put them into their mouths.

Fishing and propelling a rowboat at the same time requires at least three hands. The number can be reduced to two and thus brought within the capacity of one lone fisherman by means of a contrivance recently patented. The contrivance consists of a small hand-operated outboard motor. The propeller is revolved by turning a crank. The latter is carried on the end of a long bar which brings it within easy reach of the right hand of the standing fisherman. This bar serves also as a tiller to steer the boat. Thus the fisherman can move the boat gently along while with the other hand he trolls for fish.

Detinning of old tin cans can be done more effectively according to a process newly patented. The inventor finds that if the tin is first fully oxidized, it loses its tendency to unite with the iron when heated, and may be more fully removed. Accordingly, he heats the cans to a dull red heat, before they are crushed or compressed. This permits free access of air to oxidize the tin. Also it burns off labels, lacquer and organic material. Then the cans are crushed and melted with a flux containing chemicals that will combine with the tin oxide, such as sodium carbonate or calcium chloride. These form sodium stannate and stannic chloride. The tin can be separated from these by conventional methods. However, there is a substantial market for stannic chloride itself.



Escape from a burning building should be easy and rapid with the patented device shown in the illustration. It will certainly be more rapid than being carried down the ladder and less terrifying than jumping into a tarpaulin held by several firemen. The chute, furthermore, requires no more than two men to hold the lower end. Women and children would doubtless much prefer it. The loops provided along the sides are to pull yourself along in case you get stuck. This would seriously hold up the traffic if a good many others were hurriedly trying to escape at the same time. The device can also be used to rescue persons from a foundering ship.

Warning of an underinflated tire is accomplished in a surprisingly simple and inexpensive manner by a little device just patented. It can be clipped on to the rim of a wheel quickly and easily without marring the vehicle and without the services of a skilled mechanic. It depends on two simple things, first, that a tire bulges out sideways as it deflates; second, on a noise-making spring or clacker, which emits a loud click when bent forwards or back. The clacker is so arranged that the bulging tire bends the clacker outward every time it comes to the down side of the wheel, and the clacker springs back every time it comes to the top. The motorist thus hears two clicks for every revolution of the wheel when his tire needs attention.

Paper towels are made strong even when wet by use of a special synthetic resin, a water-soluble amino-aldehyde type. This is applied either by sprays or other means.

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 99.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1942



SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA

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NEWS OF CLUBS

ENID, Okla.—Taxidermy has been a strong point with members of the Enid Biology Taxidermy Club at Enid Senior High School. Deer-foot knives, mounted birds and animals, wild life, desk sets and rattlesnake belts, necklaces and bracelets, have been made and exhibited. Scientists and the public who have seen the wonderful examples of taxidermy produced by some of the club members have acclaimed the excellence of the work. It is not surprising that members of this club have received national recognition. At the recent meeting of the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science, the honorary AAAS membership was awarded to club member Mary E. Porter. At present the Biology Taxidermy Club, sponsored by Merle M. Boyer, is working on a bird, mammal and reptile collection for the high school.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.—“Our school has gone all out for defense,” reports Ann Lathem, Secretary of the Science Club at Reed Junior High School. “We are organized on a plan similar to Civilian Defense. We have a leader, captains and patrol leaders which form a council. Students have registered and have been divided into patrols. In addition, we are organizing First Aid, Fire Patrol, Messenger Service, Aviation Study, and Current Event Clubs. These are only a few of the 15 units which will be formed.” The activities of these groups are sponsored by Winifred Turner.

The Science classes at the Reed Junior High School already are building model airplanes from plans which appeared in the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

It should be mentioned again that plans for the scale models desired by the U. S. Navy are available through the State Department of Education which in turn receives the instructive materials directly from the U. S. Office of Education. Any science club sponsor desirous of furthering interest in scale model airplanes can get the details from his state director.

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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