

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **GLASS FIBERS**, thinner than a human hair, are being used as a covering for camouflage nets. They can be painted with designs that blend with the surroundings, and often repainted to keep up with seasonal changes. Being light and fireproof the nets cannot be destroyed by incendiary bombs.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

⚙️ **TABS, LABELS** and seals made of adhesive cellulose are extremely messy to handle because the stuff sticks so tightly to the fingers. To eliminate this inconvenience a tab has been invented having perforated strips at each end which are not adhesive. The tab can be handled by these, and after it has been applied to the desired object, the non-adhesive strips can be torn off.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

⚙️ **GLASS FLOATS** for fish nets are now being made to replace the cork, metal or other floats previously used. The glass is thick and spherical, making it difficult to break.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

⚙️ **BOTH TOOTHBRUSH** and powder are carried in a completely closed container of novel form, convenient for the traveler. It has been recently patented. The container for the powder is tall and cylindrical, but a hollow tube passes down the center and through the powder. This accommodates the handle of the toothbrush. A high rounded cap covers the brush itself and seals the unit.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

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⚙️ **TESTING** a testing machine is what the young man in the picture is doing. The massive steel ring in the center is being squeezed by the descending jaw of the machine. A scientist is measuring the deformation with an accurate micrometer screw. The proving ring, which has been standardized by the National Bureau of Standards, is used to check the accuracy of testing machines throughout the plant.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

⚙️ **SCRATCHING** of celluloid and other plastic sheeting during transport is prevented in an ingenious way by an invention that has been recently patented. The sheeting is coated with a protective film of a material that will evaporate if exposed to the air for a short time. So long as the sheets are laid one on top of another, or the sheeting is rolled up, the substance will not evaporate. This does away with the need of interleaving with tissue paper.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

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 151.

PHYSIOLOGY

Hiccoughs Before Birth Signal Allergy in Baby

➤ **HICCOUGHS** in an unborn baby are signals that the child will be allergic to foods, Dr. W. Ambrose McGee, pediatrician of Richmond, Va., warned mem-

• RADIO

Saturday, December 5, 1:30 p.m., EWT
"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

No Program November 28

Monday, November 23, 9:15 a.m., EWT; 2:30 p.m., CWT; 9:30 a.m., MWT; and 1:30 p.m., PWT

Science at Work, School of the Air of the Americas over the Columbia Broadcasting System, presented in cooperation with the National Education Association, Science Service and Science Clubs of America.

"Bricks of the Universe" will be the subject of the program.

bers of the Southern Medical Association meeting in Richmond.

Heredity, he pointed out, is known to play a part in the development of allergy. He believes that overindulgence in certain foods by the mother may induce an allergic attack, such as hicoughs, in the inborn baby.

In 21 cases of hicough before birth, Dr. McGee found allergy in 17 of the mothers, and a history of allergy in the families of two more. Ten of the 21 babies after they were born could not take cow's milk in any form and all of them were difficult feeders, and developed such allergic symptoms as eczema, rash, colic, hives, and even hayfever.

In about one-fourth of the cases, it was possible to bring on an attack of hicoughs in the unborn baby by feeding his mother specific foods such as chocolate, milk, tomato, grapefruit and nuts and watermelon.

Dr. McGee warned obstetricians to be on watch for hicoughs in the baby before birth and if they develop to warn the pediatrician, so that the latter can take measures in the way of special feeding to avoid development of allergic attacks in the baby after his birth.

Soybean vegetable milk, and care in giving the baby new foods in small amounts and one at a time were advised by Dr. McGee for infants with allergic symptoms or heredity.

Science News Letter, November 21, 1942

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