

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **SLEEPING CARS** especially designed for troops will soon be in service. They have a triple-deck berth arrangement, the berths being placed cross-wise. The middle and lower berths fold into comfortable daytime seats. The uppers are fixed and may be used for baggage.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1943

⚙️ **GYRO TRACK** recorder cars, attached to a railroad train, make a continuous record of the track condition. Eight pens record on a moving tape irregularities in curvature, alignment, surface variations and other faults in the tracks. The rate at which the tape moves is in direct ratio to the speed of the train.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1943

⚙️ **ARMORED** motor vehicles now in production for the Army are designed after exhaustive studies of the turtle's protective shell. The "firestreaming" design is expected to shed missiles as effectively as the turtle's shell sheds a horse's foot.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1943

⚙️ **FIBER** combination disks containing an abrasive are manufactured for polishing metal surfaces before paint or lacquer is applied. Cotton-drills cloth glued to vulcanized fiber, and aluminum oxide grains for the abrasive, constitute the make-up.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1943



⚙️ **MUSICAL** instruments, of tough plastic, such as the one the boy in the picture is playing, are furnished to soldiers overseas. One such instrument, called a tonette, has a range over an octave, and little or no skill is needed to play it.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1943

⚙️ **DECONTAMINATING** Army trucks, designed to spray neutralizing chemical solutions on gassed areas, are used also to carry water, as auxiliary fire equipment and as portable shower baths for dusty soldiers. The 2½-ton truck with

power decontaminating equipment looks like an ordinary tree sprayer.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1943

⚙️ **FLASHLIGHT** with featherweight storage batteries gives 2,400 hours of steady light, casting a 1,000-foot beam before becoming depleted. To be recharged this 4½-pound flashlight is simply plugged into a cigar lighter in any automobile.

Science News Letter, December 11, 1943

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 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 186.

Stocking Presents

➤ THE SNL editorial staff has a suggestion about presents, immediately available, for placing in stockings at the Christmas chimney for all ages and both sexes.

As all SNL readers should know THINGS of science, packets of interesting and timely specimens of new or important scientific and technical things, are issued each month at \$4 per year membership fee. Each packet tells of a dozen or more experiments to be performed.

There are now on hand extra quantities of some of the most interesting and informative THINGS on:

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