

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ A NEWLY patented electric fan has two sets of horizontal blades on the same shaft, set so that they will blow currents of air toward each other. Upward and downward currents, meeting half-way, deflect each other into a radial current, blowing horizontally in all directions.

Science News Letter, December 25, 1943

⚙️ BABIES may be washed, powdered and dressed with ease, it is claimed, with the use of a "safety holder for babies" recently patented. It is composed of a framed cot with center hinges. The wiggling baby is held by shoulder and leg straps. The hinges permit a lying or sitting position.

Science News Letter, December 25, 1943

⚙️ DRINKING GLASSES that look like ordinary glass tumblers are made from a heat-resistant resin molding powder. They are hard to break and are little affected by boiling in water. The same powder is used to make automobile and other lenses.

Science News Letter, December 25, 1943

⚙️ BENDING machines that shape accurately the miles of small hollow tubing



used daily in aircraft factories will make any bend or rotation within a half degree of accuracy. The simplicity of the machine is shown in the picture. The bending arm on the left has a pointer and a plate marked in degrees below.

Science News Letter, December 25, 1943

⚙️ SMALL BOATS may be propelled in narrow waters with a push-and-pull device now protected by a patent. A hinged, double-winged paddle on the end of a pole is set at right angles to the pole. When pushed, the wings open; when pulled, they close and offer little resistance to the water.

Science News Letter, December 25, 1943

⚙️ AIRPLANE wheels, tires and brakes are tested by a new machine. A tire is revolved against a 10-foot wheel which has a top speed of 200 miles an hour. Landing loads up to 40,000 pounds can be tested. Brakes are harnessed directly to the axle of the wheel for testing.

Science News Letter, December 25, 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 187.

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## Question Box

### AGRICULTURE

How can seedlings be planted and watered uniformly at the same time? p. 407.

### ASTRONOMY

In what way do stellar timekeepers vary? p. 407.

What country is sending astronomers to Peru to observe the eclipse of the sun? p. 402.

When will the total eclipse of the sun occur? p. 406.

### BOTANY

Where are the true flowers of a poinsettia plant? p. 409.

### ENGINEERING

How can germs be killed at the same time that air is being conditioned? p. 402.

What are the chances that women can find places in the field of engineering? p. 411.

### INVENTION

What can be used to sort slugs from nickels in slot machines? p. 411.

### MEDICINE

How many of 209 men with infected wounds were benefited by penicillin treatments? p. 404.

What chemical gives promise of becoming a cure for leprosy? p. 403.

What is a new method for repairing wounded livers? p. 402.

What use may suffocated germs have in curing TB? p. 409.

### OPTICS

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### POPULATION

What factors are contributing to the population decline in Japan? p. 402.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

How does the mortality rate of this year's influenza epidemic compare with last year's? p. 405.

What are six important things everyone should know about influenza? p. 405.

What dangerous germ may home-canned foods contain? p. 403.

Does the weather have any effect on influenza epidemics? p. 404.

What post-war international health plans are being made? p. 408.

### SOCIOLOGY

What may happen to society if a new social order is not ushered in after the war? p. 408.

### ZOOLOGY

What is the subject for the Boston Society of Natural History's essay contest? p. 407.

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