

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **DUCK DECOY**, that flies in the air instead of floating on the water, is a bird-shaped rubber balloon complete with wings. Filled with any suitable lighter-than-air gas, it is kept from escaping by a long cord extending from the hunter's duck blind. The wind, or jerks on the cord, keep the rubber bird in motion.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1944

⚙️ **PORTABLE** machine, to re-align .50-caliber cartridges in metallic link belts for use in airplane machine guns, is operated by hand at the front where electric power is not available. The loaded links are fed in one end and come out the other with every cartridge jarred out of line in shipment put back in place.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1944

⚙️ **CLOTHES** hanger, adjustable for wide-shouldered garments, resembles the ordinary wire hanger but has at each end of the frame a U-shaped wire extension with sleeved ends which can be moved on the frame. When pulled out, these lengthen the frame by several inches.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1944

⚙️ **PLASTIC** foam is made from a combination of synthetic plastic materials which are first foamed and then solidified. The result is a semi-rigid, buoyant solid about one-seventh the weight of



cork, as shown in the picture. It is used for insulating.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1944

⚙️ **PARKING** space meters, to control two adjacent parking spaces along the curb of city streets, lessen sidewalk obstruction and cost of installation. One supporting post, placed at the junction of two spaces, has in the same housing at its top two separate coin-controlled time interval indicators, one for each space.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1944

⚙️ **HAIRPIN** holder and dispenser consists of a casing in which the pins are stacked and held against the top by a spring. Inside posts keep them in line. A slide in the top end, with an outer knob for the finger and an inner knob to engage the loop of the top pin, is used to push them out one at a time.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1944

⚙️ **LEG-ATTACHED** corn cutter is powered from a small bellows under one heel which, each time the wearer steps on it, creates pressure to operate a release lever that sets in movement a cutting blade projecting from a frame attached above the ankle. A spring gives the blade increased cutting momentum. Both hands of the farmer are left free to grasp the cornstalks.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1944

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 235.

Deer hunters are advised to use red handkerchiefs as the flash of a white one may be mistaken for a leaping deer's tail.

Cantaloups, harvested at prime ripeness, retain their flavor throughout the year if their flesh is crushed to a smooth pulp and frozen.

Question Box

ASTRONOMY

What three planets are now visible? p. 346.

CHEMISTRY

How can toluene be nitrated without sulfuric acid? p. 348.

How is talc helping to win the war? p. 344.

CONSERVATION

What product ranks second to coal in tons produced? p. 343.

ENGINEERING

Why should precautions be taken when heavy-duty oils are used? p. 350.

GENERAL SCIENCE

What awards were made by the National Academy of Sciences? p. 344.

MEDICINE

How successful has the vaccinating of animals against malaria been? p. 345.

Where published sources are used they are cited.

What has made it possible to fly whole blood to wounded men in the Pacific? p. 341.

What sisters, born at the same time, are not twins? p. 344.

ORNITHOLOGY

Where do chimney swifts go for the winter? p. 345.

PHYSICS

What does Dr. Rabi say was the purpose of his work? p. 339.

PHYSIOLOGY

What constitutes a pilot's third nervous system? p. 348.

PSYCHOLOGY

How is the cut in absenteeism in a B-29 factory explained? p. 345.

What may be the results of overplating or underplating employees? p. 340.



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