

• New Machines and Gadgets •

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., Washington 6, D. C. and ask for Gadget Bulletin 385. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **NEW PAINT**, composed of pigment and polyvinyl resin dispersed in water with about 1% of a synthetic wetting agent, can be applied with brush or spray and dries without odor to a hard film in less than a half-hour. Washing and scrubbing do no harm to the dry paint, and it is stable to air oxidation.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1947

⚙️ **TONGUE DEPRESSOR**, similar to the familiar strip of wood used in examinations of the mouth cavity and throat, has a cavity near one end to hold a confection. The confection could be a candy for children, or a drug mixture if desired. The device was recently patented.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1947

⚙️ **MOISTURE METER**, to determine the moisture content of sand in bins and soils in the field, operates on the electrical conductivity of the material under test. Two arms of the device are thrust into the sand; one compresses the sand into a cup-shaped formation, the other sends a battery current through the pressed material.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1947

⚙️ **SIGHT GLASS** assembly, inserted in discharge tube of an automatic washing machine, permits the housewife to see the dirty water as it flows to the drain and note that successive rinse waters become clearer. It is a two-inch heat-treated glass cylinder with the necessary couplings.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1947



⚙️ **FLUORESCENT WALL LAMP**, a portable type that can be hung where needed and connected to an electric outlet by an extension cord, contains two 20-watt tubes shielded by a diffusing panel of frosted ribbed glass. It gives both direct and scattered light, as shown in the picture, and is usable from kitchen to bedroom.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1947

⚙️ **HEARING AID** selector permits the testing of a deafened person with a possible 140 combinations of component parts such as tubes, receivers and elec-

tronic circuits. The combinations are quickly switched from one to another until the one best suited for the particular deaf person is found.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1947

⚙️ **SCREW ANCHOR**, for holding screws in holes in glass, concrete and other hard material, is a plastic plug which has a lengthwise cross-arm opening in its center and lengthwise grooves on its outer surface. The plug is strong enough to be driven into a tight hole, within which it is firmly fixed by expansion when a screw is inserted.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1947

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Things of science

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Question Box

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INVENTION

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What diseases have been found to cripple or kill babies before they are born? p. 268.

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What theory has been confirmed about the atom's nucleus? p. 259.

Photographs: Cover, Dr. Wilson Powell; p. 259, Westinghouse; p. 261, Yale University; p. 263, Ralph E. Lawrence.

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What do quarantine experts hope to accomplish in the war against cholera? p. 260.