

• 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 392. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☼ **HAIRBRUSH** is slotted between the rows of bristles so that soap and water can be run through the brush to lessen the time ordinarily required for cleaning. The back and handle are made of a plastic that can be colored in various hues.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

☼ **GUIDE MAPS** on the walls of New York subway stations are made of plastic and need no frames or glass covers. The hard, tough plastic used is unharmed by heat, water, oil, or even by alcohol or lipsticks. Colors do not fade or discolor, and the surface is easily cleaned.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

☼ **COLD CHAMBER**, which liquefies helium gas and can maintain a temperature of 456 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, almost absolute zero, is now being regularly produced, following a few experimental models now in laboratory use. It includes a heat exchanger which cools compressed helium to a liquid, and an expansion engine originally developed for oxygen generation.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

☼ **PHOTOELECTRIC EYE DEVICE**, inexpensive type for use in homes, will close a window when it rains, turn on lights when darkness approaches, open garage doors when car lights strike it, and perform automatically other jobs. It must be used, of course, with suitable operating mechanisms.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

☼ **TICKET MACHINE** prints, prices



and issues a ticket to a passenger in an airplane station in less than five seconds. The machine in the picture, in a New York terminal, can issue tickets to cover at least 85% of the demands of travelers passing through the station.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

☼ **SELF-LIFTING FLATIRON** has a single leg which retracts into the sole of the iron when it is in use, but otherwise projects at an angle to hold the iron on its heel with the heated surface away from the ironing-board. This self-lifting operation permits sit-down ironing.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

☼ **FRITTED GLASSWARE** in the form of disks is for use in laboratories as filters to replace asbestos, which was di-

verted to other uses during the war. It is a hybrid of the glass family, employed for other purposes for several decades, and is described as a glass that leaks.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

☼ **ELECTRIC APPLIANCE TESTER**, designed particularly for repair men, will show the condition of any common electrical appliance, checking open circuits, continuity, grounds, short circuits, insulation leakage in wiring systems. This portable instrument has an AC ammeter range up to 15 amperes.

Science News Letter, December 13, 1947

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Question Box

BOTANY

How can you identify the many different species of Christmas trees? p. 378.

MEDICINE

What are the prospects of curing the usually fatal lymphoid tumor? p. 373.

What are the two new drug hazards? p. 372.

What danger may exist in eating wax crayons? p. 374.

What drug shows promise of reducing the number of cripples in our population? p. 371.

Why is the penicillin shortage "not serious?" p. 375.

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What vegetable is the most popular with Americans? p. 377.

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Photographs: Cover, p. 378 and 379, Fremont Davis; p. 375, Navy.