

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

⚙️ **COMBINATION** inhaler-vaporizer for the relief of throat irritation needs no heat to create the vapor, vaporizing medicines being put on a cotton pad inside. Dual tubes with special plastic nasal tips permit it to be used as an inhaler; with the cover removed it becomes a vaporizer for children.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1949

⚙️ **DOOR KNOCKER**, that chimes instead of knocking, resembles the authentic colonial knocker on the outside, and a small flat chime box on the inside. When the knocker is raised and dropped, two clear harmonizing chime tones which can be heard throughout a house are given off.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1949

⚙️ **TELEVISION** magnifier for the smaller types of receivers enlarges the picture for the size of images on seven-inch tubes to the approximate size of those on 12-inch tubes. It is an improved type of oil-filled plastic lens, developed to provide freedom from optical distortion.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1949

⚙️ **SWING-UP SUNGLASSES**, which in the elevated position become visors as



shown in the picture, offer protection against glare and are available in green, red and amber. Their plastic brow bars make them easy to wear. Lens, attached to a brow bar, is hinged to a second bar underneath.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1949

⚙️ **FIRE EXTINGUISHER**, so inexpensive that many may be installed in a home, resembles an ordinary preserving can in appearance and is operated by pulling a trigger which releases an 18-foot chemical stream through an opening in the top. The can is not refillable; it contains carbon tetrachloride principally, with carbon dioxide as a propellant.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1949

⚙️ **EYEGLASS CLEANER**, for use once a day, is a chemically treated cloth which contains a harmless synthetic detergent that coats the lens with a transparent film to keep moisture from gathering on it. This anti-fog cloth also cleans and polishes the glass.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1949

⚙️ **ODORLESS GERMICIDE**, chemically a substituted phenol, is effective against both fungi and bacteria and is non-irritating in usage dilutions. It is a dry, non-dusting, flaked solid, usable with commercial dispersing agents, and has applications ranging from sanitizing restrooms to deodorizing garbage cans.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1949

• Do You Know? •

It takes about 2.7 acres of land to produce food for one American.

Several species of fern are edible; others are used in basket-making.

Nearly one-third the trucks used in America are owned by farmers.

Of the 76 vessels used in the Bikini atom bomb test, 12 are still afloat.

The African violet, now a favorite house-plant, does not need direct sunlight.

Liquid ammonia is increasingly used as a source of nitrogen for fertilizing crops.

Maine has at least 48 different species of fern, 16 of which have some economic importance.

There are now about 60,600,000 telephones in the world, 60% of them being in the United States.

Carrot-eating in America has become popular; over 700,000 acres of land was used last year to grow this vegetable.

Brazing in high-vacuum furnaces from which practically all air has been removed permits hard solder joints to be made with virtually no oxidation.

Australia, when white settlement began 160 years ago, had some 300,000 natives; today native population is estimated at 50,000 full-blood aborigines.

Federal areas under the administration of the U. S. National Park Service bring in revenues which are sufficient to pay about one-half the cost of administration.

America stands first in the world production of electricity, making about 45% of the total; American production is about six times that of Russia, the second in rank.

Rubber is entering the road-surfacing field; when five to ten percent of rubber powder is added to the asphalt used, riding qualities are improved and the surface is less affected by winter cold and summer heat.

Banana plants are not grown from seed but from a chunk of rootstock known as a

rhizome; the rhizome, which must have an "eye" similar to that of the potato, is planted with its eyes down, under a foot or so of soil.

Science News Letter, January 8, 1949

SCIENCE SERVICE
 1719 N Street N. W. • Washington 6, D. C.
 Clip and enclose this address imprint whenever you write us to renew your SCIENCE NEWS LETTER subscription, change address, order other materials, etc. It identifies you as one of the SNL family. Lower line date is expiration. Allow three weeks for address change.