

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For addresses where you can get 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 487. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **SNOW REMOVER** to clean walks will clear a 16-inch path in snow up to 12 inches in depth, throwing the snow as much as 25 feet to one side. It is a two-wheel affair, with rubber tires and equipped with a 1.5-horsepower gasoline engine, and is guided by a handlebar from the rear.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

⚙️ **WATER SKIS** for walking on water, unlike types which can be used only when towed behind a speedboat, are of usual length and width but have increased bulk in depth. Fins prevent any tendency of the ski to go backwards in this recently patented device, and the thickness of the ski prevents sideward drift.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

⚙️ **WATER COOLER** for office use is a combination device which includes within its cabinet a spacious food or bottled drink storage compartment and three trays of ice cubes. The cooled drinking water is drawn from a faucet in a recess on one upright edge; the storage compartment is opened from the top.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

⚙️ **LIGHTWEIGHT CHAIN SAW**, shown in the picture, can be used at the top of a pole to cut a 12-inch tree limb 15 feet above



the ground. This electrically operated device, with pole removed, can be used as a hand saw. A small gasoline engine generator supplies energy, or household current can be used.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

⚙️ **HEATED SHOE TREE** for drying footwear after washing or dyeing uses an elec-

tric heating element inside the tree which is energized by the household current. The amount of heat created in this newly patented device is low to permit a slow drying.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

⚙️ **PHOTO COPY OUTFIT**, complete in one movable compartment that occupies the office space of an ordinary wardrobe, produces in a few seconds exact copies of letters, drawings, photos and forms up to legal size. No special dark room is required; the unit operates in subdued office light.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

⚙️ **HOSE REEL**, that is attached to the side of a building and to which the hose is permanently attached, permits unwinding as much or little of the hose as desired. Water passes through the unwound part; its leak-proof hose connection is reversible.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

⚙️ **BUILDING MATERIAL** of high elasticity, recently patented, is claimed as a superior product for shingles, wallboards and floor covering because it regains its original shape after being distorted by pressure. It is made of fibrous material blended with aluminum soap and a plasticizer.

Science News Letter, October 15, 1949

Do You Know?

Icebergs weighing 500,000 tons are not uncommon in the North Atlantic.

Some 3,200 American watch towers are maintained to spot forest fires.

Asbestos has been in use some 2,000 years in fire-protection.

North Carolina claims to have more kinds of trees and plants than any other state.

Some 25 years ago the Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter listed market prices for about 1,000 industrial chemicals; at present the number is over 5,500.

Only a remnant of the fur-bearing royal chinchilla of Peru is now left; these are high up in the Andes where law-breaking hunters find difficulty in reaching them.

The possibility of using carbon black to aid ice-breaking for navigation on rivers and in harbors is under investigation; carbon black on the ice would absorb heat from the sun and reduce the rate of ice growth, it is thought.

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