

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **HELMET** for use in the showerbath, on which the government has recently issued a patent, is big enough to cover head, face and hair loosely with its lower edge resting on the shoulders. It is made of a stiff transparent material, and has breathing openings covered by shields.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

⚙️ **ENVELOPE SEALER**, to wet the adhesive on the flaps, has a plastic casing within which is a sponge roller, and a handle which supplies water for wetting. The handle is a flexible plastic, which is easily filled with water and from which the water is released to the roller by a light squeeze.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

⚙️ **SCREWDRIVER** for electricians and automobile mechanics has a replaceable tiny neon tube within its shock-free plastic handle which lights when the blade contacts a high-voltage circuit. The neon tube is placed under a transparent cover in a slot in the black handle.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

⚙️ **DRAPERY PLEATERS**, shown in the picture, are zinc-plated steel pins for home use with which perfect pinch or box pleats can be made. They come in sets, each con-



taining 10 pleaters, four brass pin hooks for curtain ends, and two patterns with instructions.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

⚙️ **TAILGATE LOADER** for pickup trucks, which can lift from ground to truck-floor-level a 1000-pound package on its elevator-like platform, is powered by a

fan-belt driven hydraulic pump on its own self-contained clutch. When not in use as an elevator, it can serve to lengthen the floor of the truck.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

⚙️ **PROTECTIVE MASKS** for workers in dust-laden industrial atmosphere consist of aluminum shields, to fit over nostrils and mouth, within which are replaceable filters of extra thickness. Masks weigh less than a half-ounce and are said to be cooler than other types.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

⚙️ **BRANDING IRON** for range livestock is electrically heated from an ordinary household outlet, a portable generator or the battery of a truck or tractor. It is designed to replace older irons heated on an open fire. Different branding heads may be used on this recently patented device.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

⚙️ **REFLECTIVE FABRIC** to help keep the body warm is made of cotton fibers treated with aluminum pigment. When woven into cloth, these fibers reflect radiant heat. Clothing made from the cloth would send heat from the body back to the body instead of permitting its escape.

Science News Letter, August 26, 1950

## Do You Know?

Sugar helps hold the flavor and texture of fruits in canning or freezing.

Some fish in streams eat seeds dropped from trees overhanging the water.

A dairy cattle breed may produce meat just as high in quality as that from a beef breed.

An analysis of quail crops shows these birds eat seeds from over 300 different plants.

Females have a change in voice during adolescence somewhat similar to the change in male voices.

Adults are partial to rose-like smells, according to a scientist studying people's likes and dislikes in odors; children lean to spearmint and other strong, simple odors.

To protect the California condor from extinction, the U.S. Government is considering a plan to set aside 32,000 acres of land in the Los Padres National Forest as a condor sanctuary.

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