

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PLASTIC-COVERED MITTENS** for youngsters and teen-agers are made of warm material coated with waterproof vinylite resin which is flexible even in cold weather and resistant to cracking and peeling. These lightweight but warm mittens are available in red, green and brown.

Science News Letter, November 4, 1950

⚙️ **QUICK HOSE COUPLING** which can be opened under pressure, an English development, consists of two metal parts for each half coupling. The two halves are identical, and a joint is instantaneously made by placing the two halves together and giving a slight twist.

Science News Letter, November 4, 1950

⚙️ **HEAT-RESISTANT MATERIAL**, for lining high-temperature furnaces, is produced from a base of mullite, a well-known super-refractory material, and is said to be equal or superior to the best refractory linings now in use. A special feature is the low cost.

Science News Letter, November 4, 1950

⚙️ **TELEVISION MICROPHONE** for both speakers and singers is an unobtrusive cane-like device, as shown in the picture, that affords the public a better view of the entertainer. The easily-held, one-pound device



is as sensitive as the finest broadcasting microphones.

Science News Letter, November 4, 1950

⚙️ **IMPACT WRENCH** is a small cylindrical tool that is placed upright over and in contact with a nut at the time its

upper end is struck with a hammer. By means of a cam-like device, the impact of the hammer is translated into a rotary motion to turn the nut.

Science News Letter, November 4, 1950

⚙️ **DEXTROSE TABLETS** of various vegetable sources, and agar tablets, are now available for the preparation of culture media for growing microorganisms in scientific laboratories. To prepare media, a tablet is put into a small amount of distilled water and shaken.

Science News Letter, November 4, 1950

⚙️ **BUNSEN BURNER**, to provide the gas flame used in laboratories, is on one side of a base with a platform that regulates the flame size. When not in use, a tiny pilot-light continues to burn. When the platform is touched by finger or hand, the full hot flame immediately appears.

Science News Letter, November 4, 1950

⚙️ **SPARK PLUG WRENCH** for aircraft engines has a patented feature for holding the plug during its installation or removal. It simplifies the job of handling the spark plugs, which are often in hard-to-get-at places on complicated engines, and lessens danger to plugs from dropping.

Science News Letter, November 4, 1950

Do You Know?

Ability to *taste* may have some connection with the thyroid gland.

Gardens that are riots of color in sunlight are practically colorless in moonlight.

Many tons of sugar are used in the manufacture of *dynamite*; mixed with the glycerine before nitrating, sugar yields a nitroglycerine less likely to freeze.

Atomic power will come first in ship propulsion, it is predicted; vessels are able to carry the six-foot concrete shield needed around an atomic pile, the atom smasher.

Umbrella birds of the Andes mountains, jet-black and crow-size, have large crests of filmy feathers which can be thrown forward and outward to form a protection over eyes and beak.

Different fragrances to impart pleasing *odors* should be used in various rooms, an expert says; an exhilarating odor is suggested for a party room and a relaxing odor for bedrooms.

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