

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

❁ **BLADELESS ELECTRIC fan** whirls 15- and 20-inch circles of filter paper on a vertical shaft much like a phonograph turns records. Filter paper sections are spaced ¼-inch apart and produce a breeze-like effect all the way around the fan. Dirt particles stick to the filter paper as air is "sucked" through the disks.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

❁ **POTTER'S WHEEL** for schools, camps or the hobbyist is driven at variable speeds by an electric motor. The unit embodies other features to make it almost a complete ceramic shop, the manufacturer says. In addition, the quiet-running tool can be adapted to gem-cutting and gem-polishing.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

❁ **WINDSHIELD SCRAPER** for summer or winter use has a hard plastic edge for removing sleet, ice and snow, and a soft rubber squeegee edge for cleaning bugs, rain and mud from the glass. The hard edge will not scratch the glass.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

❁ **AQUARIUM FILTER** feeds the waste from fish to plants at the bottom of the tank, and helps oxidize plant wastes to keep water contamination at a minimum. Requiring an air hose, the plastic device, shown in the photograph, can be adapted



to single or multiple tank hookups. Illustration shows filter operating in a bed of ½ inch gravel.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

❁ **LITTER LIFT** capable of bringing two loaded stretchers aboard an airplane at once, weighs about 250 pounds and lifts patients in a level position from ground to

cabin floor. Easily set up where walk-up ramps are not provided, the device can load 40 casualties in about 20 minutes.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

❁ **"DENSIFIED" CLARINETS** and oboes are made by one company producing wood veneers impregnated with phenolic resins. Heated while under pressure, the densified wood resists scratching, moisture and body acids. The instruments weigh about the same as comparable instruments made of Grenadilla wood.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

❁ **FACE SHIELD** protects eyes and lungs of workmen where dust or small flying chips may be hazards. A transparent visor covers a large area of the face and forehead, and a throw-away cotton-and-gauze filter screens air entering the workman's nose or mouth.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

❁ **RUST INHIBITOR** is sprayed on from a "bomb" capable of treating about 50 square feet of surface area. The lacquer cuts corrosion of automobile chrome, copper objects, window screens, outdoor furniture and brass door knockers. Because it is sprayed on, areas otherwise difficult to hand-paint can be lacquered.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952

# • Nature Ramblings •

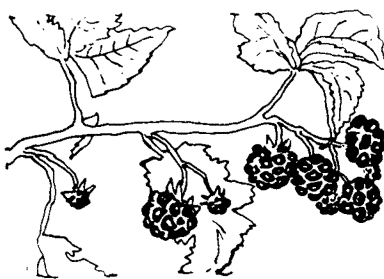
➤ **AUTUMN BRINGS** many bright berries and fruits along with the late brightness of its asters, gentians and cardinal flowers.

They are very attractive to look at, these coral-berries, snow-berries, black-haws, false bittersweet and all the rest. But their attractiveness is all to the eye; no human tongue, not even that of the omnivorous small boy, could find them tempting. They are either bitter, or impossibly sour, or at best insipid.

Yet birds eat them all, and seem to thrive on them. The hardy feathered sojourners from Canada, for which the snowy zone of the United States is "South for the winter," even eat the dark, gritty-looking fruits of the sumac and the pallid, gray-white berries of poison ivy.

They are probably the principal means of distribution for some of these berry-bearing species, for the birds digest the

## Berries for Birds



pulp off the seeds, letting the latter pass through their digestive tracts still in viable condition.

How the birds manage to down these

ill-tasting fruits, and even make them a major item in their winter diet, is something of a puzzle. Some zoologists claim that birds in general are "taste-blind." If they are, it must be a great help to them, considering the ill savor, not only of these berries but of many other things that birds eat.

If you are a suburban or rural dweller, it would be a good idea to include in your yard plantings some of the bright-berried bushes that birds frequent, setting them out where they can be easily seen from living-room or kitchen windows.

Then, when the ground is snow-covered and birds come around to these natural lunch counters, you will be able to reap without effort the pleasant reward their beauty will give you for the little trouble you have taken.

Science News Letter, September 20, 1952