

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

☼ **TOY HOLDER**, built of a sturdy metal, will accommodate about 100 pounds of toys. Supported on four swivel ball-bearing casters, the cart-like unit can be rolled easily over rugs. Rubber bumpers protect any furniture that might get in Junior's way while he carts his toys back to his room.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1952

☼ **"MILK BOX,"** set outside the house, gives the milkman a place to leave milk when the housewife is not at home to bring it inside. The metal box, well insulated with vermiculite, protects the milk for several hours from biting cold or tepid heat, and is available in four-, six and eight-bottle sizes.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1952

☼ **LIFE PRESERVER**, handy for duck hunters, is small enough to be carried in a pocket. When squeezed, the unit inflates into a brilliant yellow plastic tube four feet long which can give support to two average-sized men. The palm-sized unit can be tossed to persons in distress and will float even when not inflated.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1952

☼ **BASKET HOLDER** for glass ovenware eliminates the necessity of protecting tables from the hot casserole. The woven baskets, imported from Spain, come in various



sizes and shapes with matching glass baking dishes, as shown in the photograph. The baskets may also be used as serving pieces for hot rolls, cookies and other foods.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1952

☼ **ENGRAVING MACHINE**, especially designed for small weekly newspapers, makes cuts directly from photographs.

Burning the picture into a plastic mat with a hot stylus, the table-top engraving machine can produce an 85-screen, four-column halftone in 24 minutes.

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☼ **ELECTRIC CORD HOLDER** eliminates the unsightly tangle of excess lamp cords at wall sockets. Consisting of a "reel" and a cylindrical case, a single unit can take up as much as nine feet of slack cord, presenting a neat appearance to the housewife and her guests.

Science News Letter, November 15, 1952

☼ **BASEBALL GAME**, an ideal present for sports-minded children, has life-like players that are moved around the diamond by magnetic control rods under the game board. Complete with bleacher background, the non-electric game provides youngsters with many thrills of real-life contests.

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☼ **MULTI-PURPOSE POWER TOOL** for woodworking hobbyists who have no space for an extensive work shop combines a circular saw, drill press, jointer and sander into a powered unit only three feet square. The machine can be changed from one tool to another in about a minute's time and with little effort.

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• Nature Ramblings •

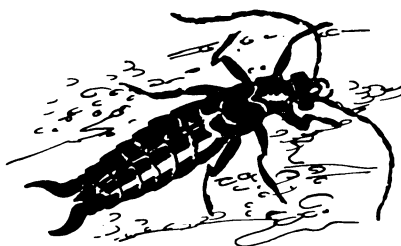
➤ ONE OF the most curiously misnamed insects in existence is the earwig. Few of us ever get to see earwigs, but that is only because we do not hunt for these curious creatures.

Even now, late autumn though it is, we can find them by turning up old boards or stones, pulling cattails to pieces, and by prying into cracks and crannies generally. For the earwigs hibernate, and we have only to break their secret doors down to find them at home.

This house-and-grounds pest has been increasing in numbers lately. A reddish-brown, six-legged insect, the earwig grows to about three-fourths of an inch long, and is distinguished by formidable-looking rear forceps and a foul odor.

Earwigs in and around the house generally are more troublesome than destructive, but they often damage flower and vegetable plants in gardens or feed on ripe fruit. This summer considerable earwig damage to apricots, raspberries and gardens was reported from Utah as well as a great increase in these pests in parts of California.

Earwig



Earwigs may carry disease because they frequent unsanitary places and then visit home pantries as freely as parlors. But the entomologists never have found any basis for the old superstition that they have a habit of crawling into ears.

Earwigs probably first immigrated to the U. S. as stowaways in baggage of European travelers between 1910 and 1920, a time when the pests were especially numerous in North Europe. They have spread in this country by the same method—in baggage,

bundles of newspapers and shipments of merchandise.

Up to this year, they had been reported in a dozen states—Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, California.

Recently, they have been reported in Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, seem to be spreading around the Boston area and increasing in several western States. They nest in the ground and need moisture, so climate has some effect on their survival.

The simplest method of control is to use DDT, chlordane dusts or residual sprays along fences, woodpiles or other outdoor hiding places, or in cracks and crannies where they hide in the house. Poison baits also may be used. A new Department of Agriculture folder tells how.

Single copies of "The European Earwig and Its Control" (EC-25) may be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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