

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

* **FLY TRAP** is a metal device that screws on the top of any quart-sized mayonnaise, or mason throwaway jar. Baited with a special fly toxin and food, flies can enter the trap but cannot leave. Good for use in houses, stores, and barns.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1953

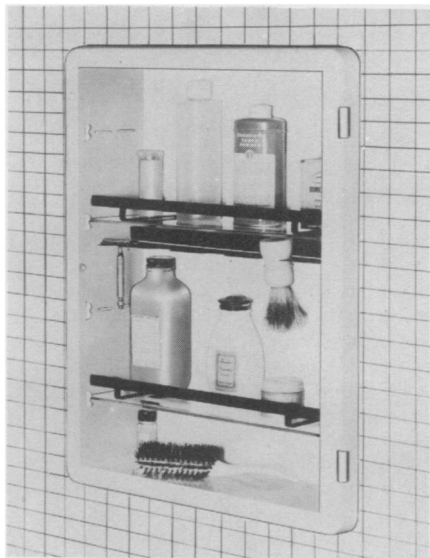
* **WATER DEMINERALIZER** for steam irons is a plastic squeeze-bottle which is filled with ordinary faucet water and shaken briefly. This "brings the demineralizer's high capacity mineral-removing resins in contact with all the water," the manufacturer reports, conditioning it for use in irons.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1953

* **TREE PROPAGATION** packet consists of sphagnum moss and vinyl plastic wrappings impregnated with hormones, nutrients, trace elements, insecticides and fungicides. Bark is trimmed away from the branch to be rooted and the material is wrapped around the exposed part. In three to eight weeks the branch should sprout roots. Then it can be cut off the tree and planted.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1953

* **SHELF GUARDS** for medicine chests keep bottles, boxes and razors from clattering to the wash basin whenever medicine on the back of the shelf is lifted out. The



device itself, as shown in the photograph, provides a secure niche just for razors and shaving brushes, thus increasing shelf space.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1953

* **PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES** having a particularly fine grain and a high resolving power are designed for the production of extremely fine line images. The plates come in sizes of 1" x 3" to 8" x 10", and are handled in the same manner as ordinary

photographic plates. They have been used to record as many as 70,000 well-formed characters in a five-square-inch area.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1953

* **WATERPROOF GLUE** for wood consists of liquid resorcin resin and a powdered catalyst. It is available in quarter-pint, pint, quart, gallon and five-gallon sizes, and is said to be the only completely waterproof glue nationally available to consumers in these small sizes.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1953

* **FILING MACHINE** resembles a Ferris wheel in that removable card trays ride on a wheel-like structure, and are always upright. Cards are not attached to the trays, thus can be "pulled" easily. The big wheel is either turned by hand or is driven by a motor. It has a storage capacity "from 100 to several thousand" linear filing inches.

Science News Letter, June 6, 1953

* **DRY BAIT** holder is made of inexpensive cardboard and keeps poisoned rat bait off plant floors in a rigid, untipable dish. The holder collapses into a trim square four inches on a side for storage. It can be discarded after use.

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Do You Know?

Cochineal is the parasite of a fig tree which the Mexican Indians used in making a vivid red dye.

When train whistles were prohibited from blowing in Corpus Christi, Texas, train-car collisions increased 50%.

The life of cold cathode lamps remains the same regardless of the number of lamp starts per hour; but the life of rapid-start fluorescent lamps diminishes the more they are cut off and on.

Polluted water can look safe, smell safe and taste delicious, yet be as dangerous as poison.

The action by which TV picture tube phosphor particles are bound to the glass is not fully understood.

"Moose" is an American Indian word from one of the Algonquian dialects.