• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 854. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit $1.50 for one year's subscription.

PRESIDENTIAL QUIZ is a game for youngsters that dramatizes the great moments in the lives of the nation's presidents, complete with a quiz-board, spinner, and questions and answers. Knowledge of important American historical facts determines the winner.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

SILICONE FLUID for use on glass, ceramic, enamel, metal, rubber and plastic ware produces a surface which resists scratching and reduces breakage. Water soluble, the liquid protective coat permits faster cleaning, prevents sticking of stoppers and sheds liquids to quicken drying.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

ELECTRIC BUNSEN BURNER plugs in anywhere. Providing a clean, noiseless and odorless heat source, the burner can be heated to a temperature of 1,470 degrees Fahrenheit. Control is maintained by means of an energy regulator, sliding rheostat or auto-transformer

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

NAVIGATOR COMPASS, shown in the photograph, for use in either boats or automobiles can stand rugged treatment. It is liquid-filled for steady readings in rough water and has a battery for push-button illumination at night. Compass readings can be obtained on either the top or side of the instrument.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

BUTTON FASTENER attaches a loose or fallen button to a garment without the use of a needle and thread. A pin is slipped through the eyelets of the button and garment and a fastener is slipped on the pin points and locked in place. Made of brass, the pins come in three sizes.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

ELECTRIC ETCHER will mark iron, steel and most other metals. The etcher consists of a heavy duty step-down transformer, a work plate, a ground clamp and an etching tool held like a pencil. The tool utilizes a tungsten point that does not stick or weld to the work.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

MANTEL CLOCK has a built-in hidden radio. The clock face, not the radio, is visible. The back of the combination clock-radio is finished for use on a room divider. Operating on 60-cycle AC only, the appliance is available in two colors.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

PLASTIC INSERT made to "squeeze" against the bottom of a closed door is part of a wind-proof, weather-tight threshold strip. Eliminating the need for mortised edges and interlocking hook strips, the vinyl plastic insert remains flexible under wide temperature extremes. Wheels or casters can be rolled across the threshold without trouble.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956

Nature Ramblings

By HORACE LOFTIN

After the Hurricane

➤ THE GULF of Mexico was quiet but still troubled the day after Hurricane Flossie smashed its way into the Florida coast.

The water, usually quite clear, was stained brown by the mud that was mixed into it the night before. Rafts of seaweed floated at the surface, pushed shoreward by the light, steady wind.

Rising from the horizon and forming a patchwork cover for the heavens were fast-moving clouds, now light, now dark, as the sun peeked out or hid behind their masses.

Above the normal high-tide mark on the beach lay a thick and endless belt of seaweed and sea grass, placed there by the hurricane tide of the previous day. As the hundreds of shorebirds that picked delicately through this litter, a dozen scientists and students probed into the hurricane's debris for prize specimens.

As everyone else connected with the sea, marine scientists respect and fear the mighty destructive power of a hurricane. Once the tempest is over, however, the scientists turn the storm's effects into profit. Probably at no other time can so many rare and unusual specimens of deep sea and tropical marine life be discovered.

Following Flossie's visit to north Florida's Gulf Coast, scientists from Florida State University's Oceanographic Institute quickly found many species either rare or unknown to those waters. Several specimens of one daintily colored crab, for example, were located in the belt of seaweed on the shore, although before it had only been taken in offshore waters.

Strange birds, too, are seen in the aftermath of a hurricane. After Flossie's visit, the fitful sky above the Florida coast was dotted with refugees from the tropics, such as the magnificent frigate bird shown in the picture.

Dead or exhausted terns and swallows lay on the beach, forming a part of the flotsam of the storm.

Fortunately, Flossie was comparatively gentle in its assult on this area. The seaman and the coastal dweller have settled back to await the next tropical storm, hoping that human homes and lives will not be added to the debris of the next hurricane.

Science News Letter, October 27, 1956