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

TRIPOD CANE designed to aid the handicapped is non-slipping. It provides three-point contact with surfaces and affords self-support when not in use. A flexible rubber socket at its base provides surface gripping even when the cane shaft is at varying angles.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957

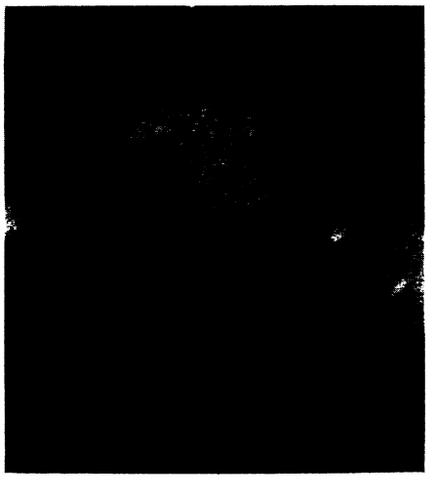
MOVIE VIEWER takes the place of a projector for daylight viewing. The viewer holds 50 feet of any standard 8 mm. film, black and white or color. As you look through the eyepiece, you turn a crank. The manually operated projector rewinds without unloading.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957

DIAL RADIOTELEPHONES for commercial use in autos, boats and other apparatus eliminates the need of an operator. With them, authorized persons can control traffic lights, start and stop machinery, turn lights and electric signs on and off and, while parked or moving, actuate almost any kind of electrically controlled device keyed to the radiotelephone.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957

BRIGHT BUOYS for swimming protection have colors that do not chip or peel off in salt water. Highly visible in water,



the buoy, shown in the photograph, is molded of a butyrate plastic and requires no periodic painting or maintenance. Each buoy consists of six molded pieces cemented together and weighs 10 pounds.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957

BOAT LETTERS and numbers described as all-weather, are made of a chip-proof and rust-proof butyrate plastic. Available in various letter styles and colors, the plastic figures have their own brass fasteners and can be tacked in place.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957

FOOTBALL HEADGEAR designed especially for junior is modeled after college and professional helmets. Both helmet and face guard are made of a lightweight plastic. The helmet is fitted with leather padding and cushioned head harness and has a leather chin strap.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957

GLOVES AND PAN COVER made from polyethylene plastic film reduce clean-up after a do-it-yourself home paint job. The flexible one-finger gloves, secured by a rubber band at the wrist, keep paint off hands. The cover, with a pouch at either end, is slipped over the paint pan. Both are throw-away items.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957

PLASTIC WHIPPINGS for fiber lines used on boats to prevent a line from unlaying can be applied with no special tools or training. The proper sized whipping is twisted on the line and permanently fixed with a bonding agent. The whippings are available in colors and ¼, ½ and ⅝ inch rope sizes.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957

Nature Ramblings

By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ A HISTORY of man's conquest of disease has very often been the story of finding and breaking links in the life cycle of disease organisms.

It was only some sixty years ago that yellow fever ceased to be a scourge to humanity, following the dramatic discovery that it is spread by certain types of mosquitoes. Once these mosquitoes, mainly *Aedes egyptii,* were controlled, the disease practically disappeared.

The typical Aedes mosquito that spread "Yellow Jack" was a city dweller, and the resultant epidemics were termed "urban" yellow fever. In certain areas of the tropics, however, yellow fever has been resisting extermination by a life cycle involving monkeys, marsupials and a different mosquito called *Haemagogus.*

This so-called "jungle yellow fever" has appeared off and on among people living in forest areas of the American tropics. In recent years, it has undergone a steady "march" through Central America, at an

Link in a Chain

estimated average rate of 13 miles northward per month. By 1956 it had reached Guatemala, and a scientist has calculated that it could reach the United States border by 1960 if the present rate of spread continues.

There is a buffer area which separates the United States from typical "jungle yellow fever" areas, however. Up to now, it appears that the monkeys are the chief reservoirs of the virus. But monkeys do not occur very far north of Tampico, Mexico, and this might set a limit on the spread of the disease.

The link that might bridge this gap from Tampico to Texas is the opossum. It has been shown experimentally that certain South American marsupial animals can harbor the yellow fever virus, and that monkeys can be infected by mosquitoes which have fed from those disease-bearing marsupials.

The common opossum is the only marsupial we have in the United States. It has never been proved that this particular species can harbor yellow fever like his South American cousins. But the circumstantial evidence is such that health authorities will keep an alert eye on him if and when jungle yellow fever moves closer to the United States.

Even if this once-dreaded disease in its "jungle" form moves to our borders again, it will probably remain something of a rarity, limited mainly to persons living in non-urban areas. An effective vaccine has been developed which can prevent human infection.

Science News Letter, November 2, 1957