

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 952. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **ELECTRIC FENCE FASTENER** is said to enable wire to be slipped on, eliminating the effort of threading. The fastener is molded in one piece from a butyrate plastic. It can be nailed or screwed to a fence post and is a good insulator.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1958

⚙️ **OFFSET HANDLE** for a frozen food knife is designed to make cutting easier. Molded of a phenolic plastic, the handle has a recess in the topside and a curve on the underside. The knife is said to be safer than straight-handled knives.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1958

⚙️ **GAS FUEL BUILT-IN BARBECUE** uses random pieces of ceramic material placed over the cast iron grate to hold and distribute heat from a 25,000 BTU burner. The burner chamber is surrounded by a one-inch thick layer of insulating firebrick. The unit is fed with a 3/8-inch gas supply line.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1958

⚙️ **HOOP TOY** made of plastic measures 36-inches in diameter. It is said that with a little practice the hoop's user can learn to spin it around the waist, neck or knees. The hoop shown in the photograph also floats



and can be used for water games, as well as for hoop rolling and giant horseshoes.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1958

⚙️ **LIGHTWEIGHT DRILL** can be used for metal drilling or fast-drilling wood. The

3/8-inch drill is described as particularly useful for working with carbide-tipped bits in stone, tile and concrete. It measures nine inches; weighs three and three-quarters pounds; and has a pistol-grip handle.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1958

⚙️ **LABORATORY FURNITURE** has four drawers for apparatus storage and is sitting height for instrument work. The unit is a little over 26 inches wide, 30 inches deep and 38 inches to the top of its reagent shelf. Its body is made of 18-gauge welded steel.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1958

⚙️ **LAWN SPRINKLER** has an internal spiral design and cap which produce a fine spray. Made of a butyrate plastic, the sprinkler will not rust or corrode. It has no moving parts.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1958

⚙️ **ADHESIVE STRIP** is designed for use in the home, office or workshop. Both front and back have a non-drying, non-staining adhesive. The back is pressed onto a wall or board. The front holds memos, coins, pencils and small tools. It can be reused.

Science News Letter, September 13, 1958



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

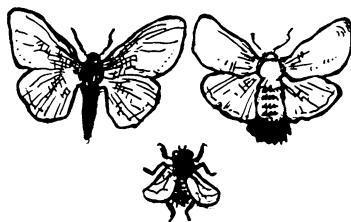
► IT TOOK a sputnik to do it, but today's adults are beginning to see the wisdom of more science for tomorrow's adults. Further, they realize that youngsters with a natural aptitude for science should be given the change to make the most of their talent as early as possible.

To this end, educators and psychologists are attempting to find out just who these especially talented youths are among the great number of school-age children.

One ready-made aptitude test is the urge to collect.

Does the eight-year-old boy have a hoard of rocks in a carefully guarded cigar box? A potential nuclear physicist. Does he have a private menagerie of frogs, spiders, snakes and caterpillars on the back porch? A budding chemist. Does he have a book of foreign stamps, Indian-head pennies, a rack of

Aptitude Test



carefully pinned insects? A biologist or mathematician.

The titles listed above are just by way of suggestion. The important thing is that the student collects—almost any old thing! There is no correlation between the thing collected and the future scientist's field of study.

It can be argued that every boy goes through this stage of hoarding rocks, bugs, snakes, match covers, ad infinitum. That is the point. All children are curious about

the world around them. They are avid to learn. They want to possess these objects to satisfy their curiosity and in a sense to control something of this big, strange world.

To this degree, scientists are overgrown boys. They have retained their boyish wonder and by collecting ideas and observations they are satisfying that curiosity and are learning to live with nature.

What child is not a potential scientist? Give him the opportunity to ramble in the world of nature, teach him to have an observant eye and a questioning mind, and the desire to collect stones can become a thirst for collecting facts.

A scientist is a person with an inquiring mind, not necessarily a person with a certain number of degrees who works on a college campus. The world is his laboratory, and the green woods, the lake, the seashore, and plants and animals are his first teachers.

A love for these things is one of the best aptitude tests.

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