

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

⚙️ **TUBE FILING SYSTEM** for rolled-up prints, charts, drawings and tracings has four tubes built into a steel box 12 inches wide, four inches high and 27 or 33 inches long. Units may be stacked on desk tops, secured under a tabletop, or placed in special steel cabinet holding 12 units.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959

⚙️ **SOLVENT-TYPE PARTS CLEANER** is portable and holds parts as large as 12 by 20 inches. It has a steel case, built-in pump that recirculates the solvent, soak tank and a fountain brush fed by a 30-inch flexible tubing. Force of fluid flow may be regulated.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959

⚙️ **PLASTIC CONDUIT** for underground cable installations is one-eighth the weight of metal pipe and can be assembled outside the ditch and lowered in place with little effort. It resists most chemicals, and requires no threading or tapering of joints.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959

⚙️ **ELECTROLUMINESCENT LAMPS** are glass sheets, shown in the photograph, having an electrical conductive coating and phosphor layer to which voltage is applied to produce light. Resembling glass



panes, the lamps produce diffused light with little electricity. Many uses include: shelf lights, signs, clock faces, and decorative lighting. Available in green, yellow and blue, they come in various sizes.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959

⚙️ **HAND CUTTING TORCHES** for use with propane and natural gas have oxygen

valves that allow smooth and gradual oxygen flow, particularly helpful in hole piercing, rivet washing and stay bolt cutting. Torch head is a machined silicon bronze forging.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959

⚙️ **HOUSEHOLD KNIFE** has steel base but a tungsten carbide cutting edge, said to be four times as hard as, and stay sharp longer than, the finest cutlery steel. The blade is claimed to outlast steel blades. It can cut tomatoes, hot bread, meat and even shoe leather.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959

⚙️ **HUMIDITY INDICATOR** is six inches in diameter, has a brass finish and a casing drilled for wall mounting. A calibration adjuster on lower left side of casing is easily accessible. The sensitive indicator is intended for factory, home or office use.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959

⚙️ **FREEZER CONTAINER** of polyethylene has molded-in calendar dial, indicating weeks and months, on its snug-fitting cover. Pointer may be set to indicate when the food was frozen or when it should be used. Containers are unbreakable, odorless, non-toxic and reusable.

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

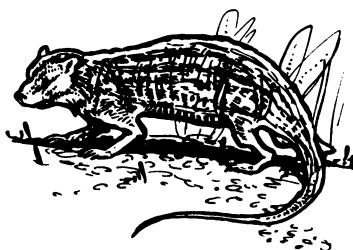
► THE EARTH shook with each step of the awful Brontosaurus, as she ponderously moved her 75-foot hulk across the marshland. A tiny, furry creature, hardly larger than a rat, scurried from under the feet of the lumbering beast, but the Brontosaurus did not notice this insignificant bit of life.

Insignificant? That tiny, furry creature waited till the monster was out of sight, then cautiously approached the mound of sticks and mud under which the Brontosaurus had laid her eggs. In a short while, the teeth of this "insignificant" creature had punctured all the eggs and it was lapping up a choice bit of yolk.

Thus did the first mammals silently battle the reptilian rulers of the early earth.

It had only been a few million years since a lowly member of the reptiles had evolved bit by bit to form the primitive

Long Live the Kings



mammalian type, but already these little mammals were increasing their range and were becoming diversified in type.

With the close of the Cretaceous period—about 60,000,000 years ago—the age of the giant reptiles also drew to a close, and the "insignificant" mammals came to the fore of the animal kingdom. Whatever the great changes that must have occurred to eliminate the dinosaurs and their kind,

the adaptable mammals were better able to meet them.

Differing from the reptiles, the upstart mammals had developed a system of maintaining their body temperature independent of their surroundings. In other words, they were warm-blooded. They could face extremes of cold and heat that would leave the cold-blooded reptiles helpless and dying. Coupled with an internal heat-regulating mechanism was the development of an insulating cover of hair, a typical mammalian trait.

Though the most primitive of our living mammals, the platypus and echidnas, still lay eggs and do not suckle their young, an early-appearing mammalian feature was that of giving birth to living young. This, coupled with ability to suckle, afforded greater safety and care to the offspring.

Last but not least, the mammals came equipped with the best brain that had yet been evolved—a fitting crown for the new rulers of the animal kingdom!

Science News Letter, February 7, 1959