

# • New Ideas 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 1087. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **GRAPHITE COATING** protects metals against rust, weather, acids, alkali, brine or salt and does not gather sand or dirt. It can be sprayed, brushed or rolled on and it air-dries to a hard finish in 10 to 15 minutes. Unaffected by temperature changes, the lubricant solves sliding friction problems.

• Science News Letter, 79:240 April 15, 1961

⚙️ **TYPING SHELF STABILIZER**, adjustable from 17 to 27 inches, ends uneven typing, prevents equipment damage and excess wear. Stabilizer telescopes to fit desk drawer, has mar-proof rubber bumper top and floor base, with no sharp edges.

• Science News Letter, 79:240 April 15, 1961

⚙️ **PIPE LAYOUT INSTRUMENT** enables beginners to make professional standardized drawings of all piping sketches. Template tool is pocket size of laminated clear plastic with rounded corners for uniform angles. It has handy compass orientation points and cutouts for common fitting symbols.

• Science News Letter, 79:240 April 15, 1961

⚙️ **SHOE HOLDER** for Men, shown in the photograph, may be mounted on wall or door. It consists of two 15- by 18-inch boards, each holding two pairs of shoes, regardless of weight or size. Shoes are held



by the heels between a spring and knob. Finished in coppertone color with soft gray trim and brass-plated fixtures.

• Science News Letter, 79:240 April 15, 1961

⚙️ **DOMINO AND LOTTO GAMES** for children are designed to teach young minds to think. The 49-piece domino set comes in either picture alphabet blocks, picture

word, beginning numbers or animals and objects. The picture matching lotto game also is available in four different colorful sets.

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⚙️ **INSULATED PLASTIC COOLER** holds 75 to 80 pounds of frozen provisions 36 to 48 hours without dry ice or any refrigeration. Conveniently sized to fit into car trunks, boats and trailers, it has a net content of two cubic feet. Chest weighs five pounds, and is washable and water-proof.

• Science News Letter, 79:240 April 15, 1961

⚙️ **WOOD OIL FINISH** provides a professional Danish finish on many unpainted and unstained woods in a single application without laborious handrubbing. Quart container comes with finishing instruction pamphlet.

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⚙️ **SWIMMING POOL ALARM** will sound a warning if even a pebble disturbs the water's surface. The safety system uses an especially designed mercury switch and is powered by dry storage cell batteries. The pool alarm can be connected either inside or outside the house to warn if anyone accidentally falls into the water.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

► NOW THAT SPRING is breaking up the last of the ice even in the north woods, the beavers are coming out of their winter retirement and looking over their engineering works.

There is plenty of building material on hand for repairing winter damage as well as for new operations. All winter long the little families in the dome-shaped beaver houses have been chewing bark off sticks of aspen and willow, and the naked and unpalatable sticks are the favorite building blocks of the beaver.

Rammed by main force into leaks and breaches and plastered over with mud from the bottom of the pond, they form a sort of carpentry-masonry that surpasses the solidity of structures erected by any other animal except man himself.

However, with the beaver as with other animals, a notable display of intelligence and ingenuity has been credited for more than it is really worth. The beaver after all does his work by instinct—whatever that may be—and shows his limitations in various ways. For instance, he makes really

### Beaver



remarkable canals into the swampy land around his ponds, to float down larger pieces of wood; but frequently he will run a canal uselessly out into the open meadow, where no trees grow at all.

But for all that, the beaver is a clever animal, and one of the real resources of America for nature study. His value as a resource in the fur industry came near destroying him for any other purpose, and it is only through close protection and prohibition of trapping that he has had a chance to "come back."

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About two-thirds of all the world's photosynthesis occurs in the sea.

Tree planting in the United States surpassed 2,000,000 acres during 1960 for the second consecutive year.

Certain naturally occurring proteins may possibly protect living cells from virus-caused cancer.

More than 2,400,000 Americans have ulcers—nearly three times as many men as women.

The annual use of hospital care by the U. S. population has dropped to the low 1940 level of 2.8 days per person.

Men on the moon may get their supply of water from stones found there, believed to contain as much as five percent water.

Americans continue to smoke more cigarettes, despite the many reports linking cigarettes with lung cancer and heart disease.

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