

• 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 1089. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **BATTERY-POWERED SHAVER** as small as a pack of cigarettes provides rotary shaving action for comfortable shaves everywhere away from electric outlets. Compact motor operates on only two flashlight batteries. Shaver has a retractable non-kinking cord and comes in case complete with batteries, mirror, brush and a sponge-rubber compartment. Flip-top head flicks open for easy cleaning.

• Science News Letter, 79:270 April 29, 1961

⊗ **ANTI-GLARE VISOR** of plastic with suction cup can be mounted to any spot on windshield or any car window to blot out sun glare. The 5-by-10-inch flexible, opaque plastic panel is easily removed and can be mounted at any angle.

• Science News Letter, 79:270 April 29, 1961

⊗ **CLOTHES POLE** of brass or chrome has hangers that adjust to convenient heights for every member of the family. Equipped with two pairs of double clothes hooks, the floor-to-ceiling pole can support additional hooks so one unit can meet needs of a large family. Non-marring plastic end caps protect ceiling and floor.

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⊗ **BATTERY-POWERED ERASER**, shown in the photograph, removes typing, ballpoint, pencil and ink. It uses standard



flashlight "C" batteries and works without shields or other devices. It erases one initial or number at a time without marring adjacent characters. Corrects errors on multiple carbon copies without the need for slipsheeting.

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⊗ **BEE HIVE** for hobbyists comes complete with bee feeder, a queen bee and 400 worker bees for honey-making and bee-

raising at home. A method of mounting the little unit in a window makes it safe, practical and fun for all age groups. Set comes complete with literature and instructions on installation and care.

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⊗ **CARD AND PHOTO PACK** in black or antique white leather holds up to 24 cards, photos, etc., in swing-out windows. Only 3 by 4 inches when closed, pack also has two inside pockets and a leather-covered inside spring money clip.

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⊗ **ALUMINUM POST BOOK ENDS** hold books, records, folders and magazines upright any place on a shelf. Adjustable from 9 to 13½ inches in height, inside spring action holds rubber-tipped posts steady. They are available in gold or satin black anodized finish.

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⊗ **PLASTIC WORK GLOVES** of polyethylene protect hands and products in home and industry. Light and flexible, watertight and very rugged, the gloves are low enough in cost to be disposable. Packed in rolls, there is the proper size, length and weight for every use. The gloves are useful wherever hands need protection and products must be protected from hands.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► THAT ANTS keep their own form of cattle, aphids or plant lice is well known. But the industrious ant has domesticated other insects that are less well known to humans because they live in the nests and rarely see the light of day unless a curious naturalist pries them out.

Some of these insects probably should be rated as guests rather than cattle, for the ants groom their bodies and actually put the food into their mouths.

One such ant guest is a strange, dark-colored beetle that has lived underground so long that it has virtually nothing left of its wings. It receives careful treatment from the ants, and makes a return that appears to be adequate from the ants' viewpoint.

Upon demand the ants can draw, from certain hairy tufts growing on the beetle's body, a fluid that has the same attraction for ants that wine and brandy have for humans. And it has the same effects on these formicine tipplers, for after a hearty draught of it, they reel about and then fall over unconscious. But the effects are not

Wine Cellar for Ants



permanent. After sleeping off their "jags," the ants are up and around again as briskly as ever, and apparently with no hangover.

Whatever the power of this liquid soporific, the ants apparently do not need it to go to sleep. Frequently they become drowsy in the heat of the day and can be found sleeping in various positions—crouching, lying on their sides, or resting on their hind legs.

The soldier ants are the heavy sleepers, for they slumber right through the jostlings of those about to sleep. Such activity may wake the small workers, but not for long.

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Insects are the greatest single cause of damage to live timber.

Americans ate an average of 161.3 pounds of red meat last year, an all-time record.

The East gets 75% of all the rain that falls in the U.S.

Retinoblastoma is probably the only form of cancer directly inherited by humans.

The smallest virus known to science has been purified, weighed, chemically analyzed, photographed and taken apart.

An all-weather radar altimeter that can provide a range of zero to 5,000 feet has been developed.

Coestie, the dense and highly stable form of silica, was not known to exist naturally on earth before its collection and identification in 1960.

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