

• 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 1090. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **HANGING WINDOW PLANTER** holds six jardinières in two horizontal rows and can be mounted atop lower half of sash window. Planter will fit any window that is not less than 19 inches wide and 21 inches in height and is available in non-tarnish brass or black finish. Each jardinière holds standard three-inch pot with plant.

• Science News Letter, 79:288 May 6, 1961

☛ **SUNGLASSES FOR DOODLERS** have ball-point pen temple pieces. The plastic-framed, unbreakable lens glasses stay in place even when pens are removed for writing.

• Science News Letter, 79:288 May 6, 1961

☛ **SHATTERPROOF LIGHT BULB** consists of a glass shape wound with glass fiber yarn and bonded into a single unit with a silicone adhesive. The new incandescent lamp can be dropped onto a hard surface without shattering, and while in use, and hot, can be dipped into ice water without breaking. The glareless bulb, available in standard sizes, lasts three times longer than conventional lamps.

• Science News Letter, 79:288 May 6, 1961

☛ **PLASTIC WORLD GLOBE**, shown in the photograph, reproduces the earth's surface in three dimensions, helping students to visualize the topography of various regions and to associate place names with surrounding topographical features. The



globe has a tough, transparent outer sphere that can be marked for study and cleaned with a damp cloth. It is mounted over a black ocean globe that has a world map printed on it.

• Science News Letter, 79:288 May 6, 1961

☛ **NONFLAMMABLE SOLVENT** for cleaning electric motors, ball bearings, magnetic film, electronic devices, gyroscopes and precision instruments, does fast, efficient cleaning job with no harm to insula-

tion or plastic parts. Available for first time in small containers, it is especially useful for cleaning model railroad engines, switches and track, and model auto and airplane parts.

• Science News Letter, 79:288 May 6, 1961

☛ **TOOL SET** for electronic kit builders includes long-nosed pliers, diagonal side-cutter, adjustable wirestripper, 40-watt soldering iron, two screwdrivers, enclosed in a transparent plastic storage case. Set weighs only three pounds.

• Science News Letter, 79:288 May 6, 1961

☛ **SILENT ALARM CLOCK** awakens a person by flashing a light instead of ringing alarm. The electric timepiece, at the time set, flashes a light on and off for five minutes. After five minutes, a ringing alarm sounds off, as an emergency precaution. The clock is offered to consumers on a 14-day trial basis.

• Science News Letter, 79:288 May 6, 1961

☛ **IDENTIFICATION TAGS**, with 3/16-inch white raised letters embossed on 1/2-inch plastic adhesive tape, will stick to all surfaces indefinitely. For indoor or outdoor use, tapes are available in black, brown, red, blue or green, and are applied merely by removing backing and pressing firmly on object.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► **APRIL SHOWERS** bring forth May flowers, and they also bring forth May mushrooms. The warm, wet spring weather permits the rapid swelling of the mushroom "buttons" concealed underground, and sets forth on the woodland show-counter an array to tempt epicures, if they have the lore to know the good and reject the bad.

There is no simple, rule-of-thumb test to tell the difference between edible and poisonous mushrooms. ("Mushroom" and "toadstool," by the way, are merely different names for the same thing.) The silver spoon will not do it, nor the peeling of the cap, nor the color of the underside. You simply have to know your mushrooms.

Of all the inedible mushrooms in this country, there is only one genus that is really deadly; the others are just "tummy-achers"—distressful if incautiously eaten, but of little comfort to the undertaker. The deadly ones, belonging to the genus *Amanita*, or death-cups, are easily distinguished.

Alone of all our mushrooms, a death-cup is marked by a cup at the base of the stalk,

Mushrooms



and a ring—a loose ring—around the stem up under the cap. Many other mushrooms have the ring, and a few the cup, but none except the death-cup have both.

Other things also aid in distinguishing the dangerous genus from the edible mushrooms of the genus *Agaricus*. Death-cups usually grow in the woods, while the common agarics, which resemble them in general appearance but have no cups, grow mostly in the open fields.

The death-cups are white or pallid underneath, while the agaric is black or brown in the gills when ripe, though while "green" it is also white beneath.

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The average size of a farm has climbed to 302.4 acres for the country, an increase of 60 acres since 1954.

Scientific tests indicate that persons who are very independent in making judgments are more intelligent than those who continually agree with a group.

Basic scientific research has more than doubled in the U.S. since 1953.

United States forest industries planted trees on nearly 500,000 acres during the most recent planting season.

The first U.S. electric power plant tapping natural steam energy from the earth's bowels was built in California in 1960.

Fast-moving changes in farm production and marketing are intensifying the need for scientific research in agriculture.

One out of every ten persons in the U.S. has some form of allergy.

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