

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **PROFIT CHART** provides the businessman a means of figuring profits quickly and accurately. Automatic chart has columns for price of items per dozen and the selling price of single items at various percentages of profit. Knowing the cost, profits can be read directly. Complete instructions are included.

• Science News Letter, 80:184 September 9, 1961

☛ **ALL-PURPOSE WATER PUMP** that can deliver 400 to 500 gallons an hour with a 1/50th horsepower motor has a loosely fitted impeller and does not clog with sand or grit. Weighing only three pounds and having a flexible shaft, it can be used on boats to remove or supply water and in homes to remove water from cellars, pools, tanks and boilers.

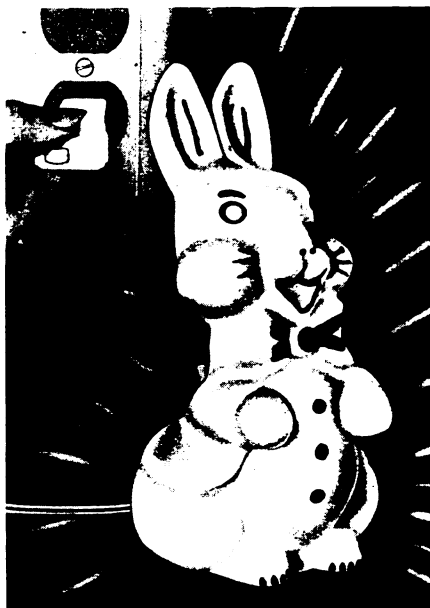
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☛ **MINIATURE GROUNDING DEVICE** prevents explosions on outboard motor boats due to static electricity. Containing tiny brass beads, it is only two inches in diameter but provides 40 square inches of grounding area. Installed on the transom below the water line, the device is connected to the permanent gas tank with ground wire included in kit.

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☛ **BUNNY NIGHT LIGHT**, helpful in eliminating a child's fear of the dark, completely lights up with a soft glow. Made of durable porcelain with a smooth finish, the

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yellow, pink or blue bunny with black features is six inches tall. Equipped with a 54-inch cord, bunny, shown in the photograph, can be plugged into any AC or DC outlet.

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☛ **GOLF BALL RETRIEVER** serves also as an excellent shag for putting practice. It

has a full-size vinyl grip and an aluminum 12-foot tubular handle that telescopes to the length of a golf club. The cup swivels when the ball is scooped up into an easy carrying position without manipulation of the handle.

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☛ **MINIATURE TOOL KIT** has 10 tiny gold-color tools, each about the size of a small paper clip. Individually compartmented in a plastic pouch, the kit includes pocket knife, hammer, screwdriver, pliers, wrench, shears, axe and nutcracker, each with a hang-up ring.

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☛ **FINANCIAL RECORD BOOK** to record serial numbers, dates and other data of stocks, bonds, deeds, etc., is an 8½-by-11-inch loose-leaf binder of flexible navy blue vinyl. It contains a supply of 12 different blank forms, each designed for recording a particular asset. Owner's name can be imprinted if desired.

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☛ **MUSICAL CIGARETTE BOX** that plays a popular tune when opened looks like a miniature, classic bookcase of cherry-wood, finished in walnut, whose shelves are lined with hand-painted simulated books. Having an overall size of 6½ by 3½ by 3-13/16 inches, it holds king or regular size cigarettes plus match books.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

► MANY OF OUR COMMONEST weeds are imported, but one American plant has the somewhat doubtful distinction of sometimes amounting to a troublesome weed on its native soil. This is the pokeberry or pokeweed, also known simply as poke, soko or garget.

It is a tall, thick-stemmed, abundant-leaved plant and it likes moist, rich land, especially newly broken plowed fields and clearings.

Right now, with summer flowers folding up, one by one, against the coming frosts, the pokeweed helps by decorating corners with stiff bunches of berries so purple they are almost black.

These same berries yield an amazingly purple juice that children can make into ink for their own amusement. The coloring might serve as a dye, but it would have to be teamed with an appropriate fixing agent and even then would find it difficult to compete with the cheaper, more standard aniline dyes.

In earlier days, the thick, asparagus-like shoots of the pokeweed furnished pot herbs.

### Pokeberry



They were somewhat rank in taste unless they were very young, but when asparagus was scarce, they would do. They were even cultivated at one time, but not any longer.

The roots of the plant are yellow and intensely bitter, yielding a violent purgative drug. Eaten by accident for horseradish, they have caused serious illness and even death, so that use also is gone.

Robbed of all its possible occupations, the pokeberry has become a vagabond and a weed.

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Patients entering mental hospitals with *schizophrenia*, manic-depressive or involutional psychosis now have at least a 65% chance of returning to community life within a few months.

Accidents will mar the *vision* of about 141,000 youngsters and more than 300,000 adults in 1961.

*Corn* has no mechanism for the dispersal of its seeds and is not capable of reproducing itself without the aid of man.

About 75% of the *cholesterol* present in the body is synthesized in the tissues, primarily the liver.

*Ceramics*, rather than iron and steel, may be the key materials for building the electric power generators of the future.

An estimated \$252,000,000 is spent annually on *quack* cures for arthritis.

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