

• 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 1109. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **THREE-WHEELED SCOOTER** suitable for duties or pleasure will hold a large basket or golf bag and can be adapted to pull a lawn mower. Weighing only 177 pounds, its steering handle, seat and front wheel lift off for transportation in a car. The three-horsepower scooter can travel up to 16 miles per hour. A single foot pedal controls the accelerator and brake.

• Science News Letter, 80:200 September 16, 1961

☛ **BATHTUB SECURITY RAIL** recommended especially for the aged, infirm and handicapped helps to prevent accidents while getting in or out of the bathtub. The chrome-plated, heavy duty steel rail adjusts to all sizes of tubs and is rubber protected at contact points.

• Science News Letter, 80:200 September 16, 1961

☛ **WRITE-ON WIRE MARKERS**, useful in prototype operations or production work where many different legends are needed, are self-adhering and self-laminating. Partly a write-on marker and partly transparent, the clear portion wraps around itself and over the written code applied on the wire, assuring permanent legibility.

• Science News Letter, 80:200 September 16, 1961

☛ **TALKING DOLLS** in the images of three stars of a children's TV show speak 11 different sentences at the pull of a string, each with its own distinctive vocabulary and vocal personality. The dolls, shown in



the photograph, have soft bodies and plastic heads in which the voice units are sealed.

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☛ **REMOTE HANDLING TONGS** with pistol grip and locking device allow safer handling of explosives, radioactive substances and toxic materials. They can be used to lift, pour or mix, and can be operated as simple hand tongs, or mounted

in ball swivel joints, from behind shields. Interchangeable heads include parallel and curved jaws, screwdrivers, saws and winches.

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☛ **PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER** with a new multi-purpose dry chemical as the extinguishing agent can be used against flammable liquids, electrical fires, wood, paper and other combustibles. Available in different models containing from 8½ to 25 pounds of chemical, conversion kits are offered for certain models now in use.

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☛ **AUTOMATIC INCUBATOR** for classroom use is a 12- by 18-inch clear plastic box visible from all directions. It comes with egg turning equipment. Its removable specimen compartment is also suitable for cultures, and seed germination study. Two 40-watt bulbs give thermostatically controlled temperatures ranging up to 150 degrees Fahrenheit.

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☛ **ELECTRIC COFFEE MILL** makes it possible to grind coffee as needed and to the desired fineness. To operate, the coffee beans are placed in the metal cup of the 110-volt grinder, a button pressed and held down for about 20 seconds, or longer for a finer grind.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

➤ **WHETHER THEY BURROW**, swim or climb trees, all snakes continue to grow throughout their lives. At certain intervals, usually three or four times a year, the skin becomes too tight and it must be shed.

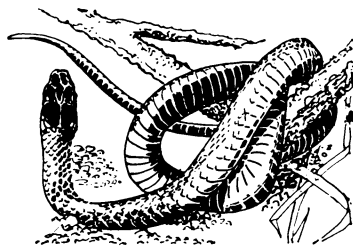
This process is somewhat similar to what happens when a human gets a sunburn and the top layer of skin peels off in sizeable sheets. Like the sunburned human, the snake does not slough off the full thickness of the skin, but only the paper-thin, inelastic, top-layer known as the epidermis.

Before peeling, the animal becomes sluggish and stops eating. The skin itself, which is not in the least slimy, looks dry and the colors become drab and dirty.

For ten days or two weeks, the snake behaves as if it were ill. During this time, a new epidermis is being formed, and the major energy of the body seems to be devoted to this task.

Then one day, the snake comes out of its torpor. The old outer skin has regained its transparency and the colors appear brighter

Snake Peel



as a secretion pours out beneath it and loosens it along the entire body length.

The snake then begins roving about, restlessly rubbing its snout against rocks, trying to peel back the front end of the skin.

It finally succeeds and simply crawls free, with colors glistening as if it had been dipped in oil.

The old skin, frequently in one piece, now useless is left behind.

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One out of every three of Canada's manufacturing establishments employ *chemical processes* and make products essentially chemical in nature.

Suggestibility alone can create a feeling of improvement among a large proportion of hospitalized psychiatric patients.

Almost 1,000,000 *teen-agers* sought but were unable to find work in June, 1961.

A new *steroid* successful in the treatment of hay fever, bronchial asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and other allergic and inflammatory conditions has been reported.

Many *farmers* now have a year around supply of fresh feed for their animals by growing in hydroponic trays grass that is ready to harvest every six days.

Paper is one of the most frequently used items in modern life.

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