

# • 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 1114. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **SPACE-AGE PROTECTIVE FABRIC** for personnel making and handling missile fuels is a fluorocarbon laminated material reportedly more resistant to chemicals than any other fabric yet evaluated. It is expected to be used in industrial protective equipment, including outerwear, especially where flash fires and exposure to extremely corrosive chemicals are hazards.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961

⚙️ **CLIPPINGS CUTTER** is a cutting device having a specially pointed high carbon blade that permits easy, non-destructive removal of clippings, even from the center of a magazine or newspaper page. The point is simply inserted into the page and the cutter pushed around the article. The compact clipper fits easily into pocket or purse.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961

⚙️ **INSTANT INK CAPSULE** provides a quick refill for a fountain pen. The one-inch-long capsule is inserted into the barrel of the fountain pen and dipped into water for about 30 seconds. The ink concentrate dissolved by the water flowing through it by capillary action fills the barrel with enough ink for 5,000 words.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961

⚙️ **PLASTIC DISPENSER LID** for canned syrups, juices and oils stops dripping down



the side of cans. Made of polyethylene and available in several sizes, the pouring lid, shown in the photograph, with spout is snapped on after the top of the can has been punctured or cut out. A cap covers the spout when not in use.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961

⚙️ **TRIGGER GUARD** that covers the trigger of a gun making it impossible to fire helps prevent shooting accidents. Made of black, high impact styrene resistant to

hard blows or excess forcing, the shield is fitted with an interlocking screw-on key lock for additional safety.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961

⚙️ **PLASTIC SHELF TRACKS** have built-in support tabs that can be simply pushed in to adjust the height of shelves. The resilient tabs spring back after each adjustment. Made of strong and stiff acetal resin, the tracks are suitable for a wide variety of shelves.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961

⚙️ **ELASTIC STOP NUT KIT**, practical for machine and repair shops, contains a selected assortment of more than 250 plated, carbon steel self-locking elastic stop nuts in a variety of thread sizes. The nylon locking insert grips the bolt threads with a 360-degree perfect fit that will not loosen under the most severe vibration conditions.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961

⚙️ **DROWSY DRIVER ALERT** to force sleepy drivers to attention is wired into the electrical system of the car. Three alerting signals of increasing intensity which follow in sequence are produced by the unit: a flashing light, blowing of the horn, and severe jolting of the car, ending with automatic shut-off of the ignition. The driver can stop the cycle at any point by pressing the horn.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961



## Nature Ramblings



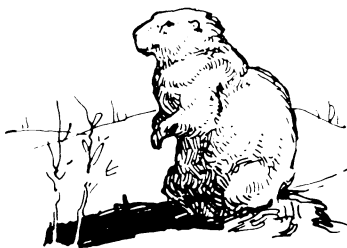
## Do You Know?

➤ NOW THE FLAT-HEADED woodchuck is no longer active. In fact ever since the middle of September the woodchuck has been disappearing from its range, and settling down for the winter in a state of suspended animation known as hibernation.

The first woodchucks to go to sleep for the winter are those in the north. They frequent a range from northeastern Quebec to Nova Scotia across the continent to southwestern Yukon. The period of hibernation for these animals may be as long as six months. The farther south a woodchuck is, the later hibernation starts and the shorter it is.

All summer long any woodchuck eats as much as it possibly can. This gorging is to put on layers of fat to sustain life during its long winter sleep. Just before going underground for the last time of the year, a 'chuck stops all eating. There is an interval of several days, marked by apparent irritation, when the animal eats nothing.

### Woodchuck



Then comes the day when it is ready to hibernate.

A woodchuck goes to the highest room in its elaborate system of many tunnels and rooms in which to pass the winter. Before it settles down permanently, the animal scrapes some dirt from the floor. It uses this to plug the entrance to the room.

The woodchuck is now ready to hibernate. At first the sleep is light. But in time it becomes a sleep akin to death.

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Cows in Hawaii yield nearly ten times more milk than those in Pakistan.

Eleven transuranium elements, those that are heavier than uranium in the periodic table, have been discovered since 1940.

Enrollments in elementary and secondary schools rose 44.5% in the past decade and the number of classroom teachers rose 42%.

Of the chemical products on the market today, 85% were unheard of ten years ago.

Most naturally-occurring diamonds are single crystals.

Nematodes, the most numerous animal on the earth, have been thawed from the antarctic ice after years or centuries in the extreme cold, have been found in desert sands, at the bottom of deep lakes and universally in the soil.

• Science News Letter, 80:278 October 21, 1961