

# • 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 1119. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **CORNER PATCHING TOOL** especially designed for patching corners has an angled blade that evenly distributes plaster or cement in the smallest corner, eliminating waste and saving time. The tool, suitable also for brick pointing, stair angles or jointing cement, has an easy grip handle and a blade of rust-proof hardened tempered tool steel.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961

⚙️ **MINIATURE POLISHING SPONGES** are 2-x-1¼-inch cellulose sponges impregnated with a cleaning and polishing compound to remove stains on silverware and plastic ware. Each carton of five sponges contains a plastic sponge holder to keep hands clean and dry while using them.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961

⚙️ **OCTAGON-SHAPED LOUVERS**, especially designed for use in front-gable architecture, have vanes of tough plastic secured to an eight-sided white pine frame. Resistant to impact and weathering, the vanes, which never need painting, are backed with an aluminum screen. Of thinner gauge than wood, they provide greater ventilation.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961

⚙️ **PLASTIC CHESSMEN**, shown in the photograph, are replicas of hand-carved figurine pieces of the 11th century. Impact re-



sistant and virtually indestructible, the chessmen are steel-weighted for balance and felted to protect the chessboard. Available in black and ivory and red and ivory, the sets come in a variety of sizes.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961

⚙️ **GARBAGE CAN BAG** is a jumbo size, inexpensive, disposable bag of clear plastic

that replaces a paper bag. Waterproof and extending several inches over the top edge of the can and secured by means of an elastic band, it will keep the inside of the garbage can clean and dry.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961

⚙️ **HAND CLOTHES WASHER** for light laundry is a hand-manipulated washing device that permits washing without wetting the hands. The perforated rubber nose of the washer containing a rustproof steel spring creates a powerful suck and jet-squirt action that penetrates any fabric by pushing a plastic handle up and down. Complete instructions are included with the unit.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961

⚙️ **APPLE CORER AND CUTTER** takes out the core and divides the apple into 14 slices with one stroke. Chrome finished and with stainless blades, the device is also suitable for slicing other fruits and vegetables.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961

⚙️ **CHILDREN'S LEASH** prevents the toddler from straying while mother is shopping. Adjustable wristbands for mother and child, connected by an expandable, tangle-free swivel cord, leave the mother's hands free for packages and gives freedom of movement to the child. Wristbands are secure yet easily removed.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961



## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

► **THE ACORN** is one of the greatest sources of mast—a collective term for nuts. Mast is a wildlife food of great value, for it contains a quantity of carbohydrates and lesser amounts of protein. The carbohydrates provide heat and energy—so necessary for the winter survival of many animals. For wildlife the protein is a great builder of tissue that needs to be strong during winter.

Among the acorn-bearing trees, those classified as "white oaks" produce the sweetest acorns. They are the fall and winter mainstay in the diets of such birds as the quail, grouse and turkey, and such mammals as the bear, deer, raccoon and squirrel.

The gray squirrel feeds constantly on these acorns. It revolves this nut between its paws as it gouges out the sweet meat with sharp teeth. As a squirrel eats, bits of acorn drop from its perch to the ground. These crumbs are food for quail and various resident songbirds.

The acorn is well liked by at least four species of woodpeckers. In the East, the red-headed and red-bellied woodpeckers eat quantities of these nuts during fall and win-

### Acorns and Wildlife



ter. In the West, the Lewis and California species show an equal liking for acorns. In fact the California woodpecker has such a preference for them that it is often called the "acorn woodpecker."

Our most colorful duck, the wood duck, is a great eater of acorns. This is really not so surprising, for this bird nests in trees and, therefore, is at home in a wooded habitat. And the mallard is also an acorn-eater, though its consumption is not so great as that of the wood duck.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961

*Insects* have been trapped from airplanes as high as 19,000 feet.

There are 460 *poison control centers* in the United States to provide physicians with information on the ingredients of new drugs and household products and antidotes for them.

Fluoridated water apparently contributes to the development of straight *teeth* as well as to the prevention of tooth decay.

Of the more than \$60 billion spent on *research* in the history of U.S., \$30 billion have been spent in the past five years.

Some 30,000 *veterans* stricken by cancer are being treated each year in Veterans Administration Hospitals.

The change in the basic pattern of *living* in the United States to a more relaxed and informal one is reflected in the landscaping design around homes and community buildings.

• Science News Letter, 80:360 November 25, 1961