

are specified as material that should be collected if possible.

Details of this new activity of the Army Medical Museum and request for cooperation by civilian doctors are given in a letter just sent by the museum's curator, Col. J. E. Ash, to members of the American and Canadian Section of the International Association of Medical Museums, the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1942

PUBLIC HEALTH

Treatment of Carriers May Prevent Dysentery

DYSENTERY outbreaks in Army camps and in civilian institutions such as hospitals and prisons may be prevented by one of the newer sulfa drugs, sulfaguanidine, Dr. Lowell A. Rantz and Dr. William M. M. Kirby, of San Francisco, suggest (*Journal, American Medical Association, April 11*).

In nine out of 11 patients, 10 of whom were regarded as healthy carriers of dysentery, sulfaguanidine treatment banished the dysentery germs, the San Francisco doctors report. As a result, the patients were no longer disease spreaders.

The healthy carrier of dysentery germs is probably the source of most cases of sporadic infection and if working in the kitchen of a camp or hospital may be responsible for serious outbreaks of the disease. If the sulfaguanidine treatment lives up to its present promise it should be a valuable aid, the physicians state, to the control of the spread of bacillary dysentery.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1942

BOOKS

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New Machines And Gadgets

Novel Things for Better Living

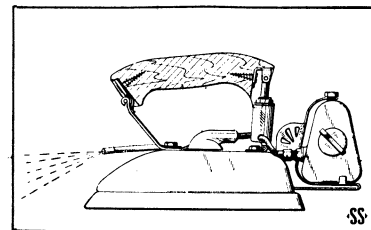
Pulling up dandelions from your lawn, either with the idea that there might be a little speck of rubber in them or for the more esthetic purpose of beautifying the lawn, is made less wearisome and more effective by a new garden implement just patented. On the end of a long pole is a metal prong which is pushed into the ground near the stem of the dandelion. This loosens the roots. The act of pushing down on the pole opens a swinging clamp near its lower end, while pulling up on the pole closes the clamp. The weed is thus neatly grasped and pulled. The implement can also be used for other weeds.

Light paper caps, weighing only half an ounce, are now available to industrial workers to protect their heads from the light dusts common in many plants. The paper is made to imitate linen cloth so that the cap looks neat and stylish. By an ingenious device the size of the cap can be adjusted to fit the head. Cap sizes are marked on the sweatband so that the adjustment can be instantly made. The caps also serve a second purpose because they carry slogans for safety education.

An all-purpose electric tool is now within the means of most any home mechanic. It can be used for drilling holes, for grinding, sharpening, wire brushing, sanding, buffing, for sawing, etching and engraving. Attachments are available for all these uses. It can be operated with one hand, the switch being so located that it can be operated with the same hand that holds the tool.

Blood bank refrigerators of special cylindrical design are now being made for use in hospitals. Revolving shelves can be turned so as to bring the desired type and quantity of blood immediately within reach of the hospital technician. Precious time is thus saved in emergency cases by eliminating the necessity for unloading shelves or fumbling around to find the right bottle. The temperature is regulated to within two degrees, rather finer than with the ordinary household refrigerator.

Sprinkle the clothes and iron them too without stopping. One hand only is required, leaving the other free to do whatever else you may wish to do with it. When you wish to operate the sprinkler system attached to the iron depicted here, you simply press down on the back end of the handle and go right on with your ironing. If conditions ahead are sufficiently moist, you put all the pressure on the front end of the handle, as you ordinarily would in



ironing. Of course you must fill up the little tank on the back end before starting. The inventor has just got a patent for this little time-saver.

In case of snake bite, it would be convenient to have a little snake venom extractor, recently patented, handy in your pocket. The extractor is in essence a miniature suction pump that draws the poison out of the wound. It has two nozzles of different sizes to accommodate either a small bite or a large one, one on the finger, or one on the leg. It is packed in a cylindrical box which can also carry antiseptic tablets and bandages.

Writer's cramp and losing your pencil can both be at one and the same time avoided by a little device that attaches the pencil to your forefinger. This has recently been patented. Writer's cramp, the inventor says, is due to the pressure of the fingers exerted to support the pencil or other writing instrument. Accordingly, he provides a holder for the pencil in the form of a thimble, with the top cut off, that slips on the forefinger with the pencil attached alongside. The writer thus only has to steer the pencil. He doesn't have to hold it up. Also, he can't lose it if he keeps it attached to his finger while it is temporarily not in use.

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin No. 100.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1942

The world's first *indoor oil field* has been proposed by an oil company for construction in Los Angeles—the company plans a huge concrete building inside of which all drilling operations would be conducted.

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