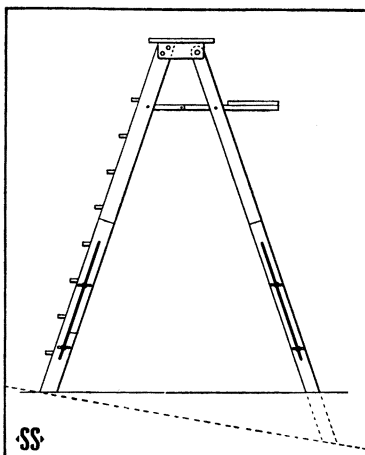


New Machines And Gadgets

Novel Things for War-Time Living

Ice cubes can now be individually extracted from the refrigerator without having to thaw out a whole trayfull. Each cube has its own container, a little plastic cup, made of ethyl cellulose. Twelve of them are carried on a rack from which they are easily lifted after freezing. A little pressure on the slightly tapering sides or on the bottom of the flexible cup easily removes the ice cube. Very little metal is required for the rack.

Ladies, protect your open toes! A protector has recently been patented which slips over the open-toed shoe covering just the hole, thus preventing mud, dirt, or water from entering when you are out walking. Once in the house, the protector can be removed.



An extensible stepladder has lately been patented in which each of the four legs can be independently lengthened somewhat so that the ladder can be adapted to sloping or uneven ground and still maintain horizontal steps and a level top. The illustration shows how, if the ground slopes down, the back legs

can be lengthened. If the ground slopes sideways, the legs on one side can be lengthened.

Adhesive blackout paper which can be instantly applied to a window pane and afterwards pulled off, like scotch tape, should help to solve the problem of the occasional blackout. Any adhesive remaining on the window after the paper is pulled off can be removed with a little turpentine.

A small plastic cup is helping the automobile mechanic to loosen quickly the "frozen" studs or nuts in a cylinder head, and so to speed up those "carbon and valve" jobs so important today in keeping your car in condition. The cup is screwed onto the stud and solvent is poured in. It trickles down through tiny holes in the bottom of the cup and dissolves corrosion around the stud. This is faster and more economical than squirting solvent around the stud, and leaves the mechanic free for other tasks while the solvent is working. The cup is made of a cellulose acetate plastic which is transparent and not easily broken.

Sales tax tokens are now being made of fiber in several states to save war-needed metals. The weight is about half that of aluminum. The fiber, which is strong and tough and readily embossed, can also be used for identification tags, name plates and all kinds of markers.

The glare of the photographic flashlight can be reduced and the sharp shadows softened by merely dipping the bulb in a special chemical solution and allowing to dry. This takes about a minute and leaves a film that allows the actinic rays to pass but cuts out some of the longer wavelengths. The result is a soft, velvety light that does not harm the eyes, but is efficient photographically.

A picture of a picture is taken by a new small-size X-ray outfit developed to enable health authorities to examine thousands of children and adults for unsuspected tuberculosis more quickly and less expensively. The X-rays throw a picture of the person's lungs on a fluorescent screen and a 4x5 picture of this picture is taken with an ordinary camera with a special lens. The reduced picture is still large enough to show all necessary details on an illuminator, and saves much space in handling and filing. Some of these outfits are being used to examine prospective soldiers for the Army.

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 105. Science News Letter, May 28, 1942

Some 30,000 muskrats which eventually will grace the shoulders of American and Canadian women, are being trapped this spring by Indians on the Two Island Preserve, near The Pas, Manitoba, Canada.

Message to TEACHERS

Science advances—12 months of the year. This is true even more this year because science advances at an accelerated pace during War time. It is just as important to keep informed on science as it is on the various battle fronts of the world.

What new inventions, what new discoveries, what new knowledge is science uncovering? You will want to know all during the summer.

In past years there have been some teachers who have not received Science News Letter during their summer vacations, but who resubscribed every fall. Science, however, doesn't take a vacation.

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