

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **OIL CANS** grown on the farm have recently been announced. They are made of fiber and are plastic lined. The fiber comes from straw and waste paper. The plastic may be made from corn or other grains, flaxseed, tallow, animal tissues, bone or clay. No special openers are required for the cans—a saving in itself. Just cut the thing open with your pocket knife. The containers are 10% lighter than the old tin cans. While designed for lubricating oil, we may eventually be getting our beer, beans and soup from such “cans.”

Science News Letter, November 28, 1942

⚙️ **TO REMOVE** an incendiary bomb safely, a scoop of substantially rectangular shape with a cover has been invented and patented. The cover is so made that it can be slid forward and its front downturned edge placed beyond the bomb, which is thus immediately covered. The cover is then pulled back and the bomb is thereby drawn up into the scoop in which position it is completely enclosed. It may then be carried away and deposited in a safe place.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1942

⚙️ **PRACTICE YOUR** golf stroke at home. That is the object of a newly patented invention. Many such devices have been invented, but this one is different. The ball is attached to one end of a slender rod, to the other end of which a ring is attached. The ring goes over a stake in the ground or fastened to the floor. On this stake is a spiral spring. When you hit the ball, it revolves around this stake like a planet around the sun, but the ring climbs up the spiral spring, and the height to which it climbs measures the power of your swat. A knob at the top prevents it coming off entirely, should you be so strong.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1942

⚙️ **A POCKET STAPLING** device which is about the size and shape of a mechanical pencil, and is in fact combined with a mechanical pencil, is a clever invention recently patented. The stapler itself is near the top of the pencil, the punch-knob being just above the top of the clip. The shaft of the stapler passes transversely through the pencil, on the opposite side of which, projecting slightly, is the “anvil” which is slipped under the papers to be clipped together.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1942



⚙️ **ANTENNAE HOUSINGS** that look like bombs were part of the equipment on the B-25 bombers that raided Tokyo. They are tear-shaped structures made of plastic. When news of their part in Gen. Doolittle's flight reached the factory of these devices, the employees tripled production overnight.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1942

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 132.

ENTOMOLOGY—PUBLIC HEALTH

Fly Most Menacing Aerial Foe to Our Troops

➤ **THE FLY** is one of the most menacing aerial enemies of our fighting forces, both here and abroad, the Southern Medical Association was told by Lieut. Col. Dwight M. Kuhns of Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta.

As long ago as the Spanish-American War, the part that the house fly plays in the spread of diseases was discovered and put into practice for the protection of the health of, first, our troops, and then in later years the civilian population.

Thanks to the extensive introduction of modern methods of sewage disposal, the dangers of disease spread by flies has been partially forgotten by the public and even by the doctors and health officials. The men in the army have not realized the importance of safe disposal of human wastes under field conditions and the necessity of cleanliness in handling food wherever the troops may be.

Diarrhea and dysentery are the principal diseases spread by flies and they are particularly dangerous under tropical or semi-tropical conditions such as those under which our troops are operating in many parts of the world.

Lieut. Col. Kuhns explained that researches with troops on active service show that carriers of these diseases are more prevalent than commonly realized. Troops are being taught intensively the methods of sanitation that prevent dangers from these diseases.

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PALEONTOLOGY

Barylambda Placed on Display at Field Museum

➤ **BARYLAMBDA**, a beast that can be described only as “something out of this world,” is now represented in the Field Museum by a practically complete skeleton that has just been mounted and placed on display. The big, bumbling beast, whose remains are found in western Colorado, lived in the days classified by geologists as late paleocene, which means very near the dawn of the age of mammals.

Paleontologists always get stuck when asked to describe Barylambda. He had an overall length of between eight and nine feet, was four feet high at the hips and nearly as wide across. He was probably the biggest, burliest brute of his day.

His head was little and his tail astonishingly big. It is conjectured that he may have used it for a fifth leg, like present-day kangaroos. His teeth indicate that he was a vegetarian.

And there isn't any animal alive today that is even remotely related to him, or even faintly resembles him. Not even scientists would believe he had ever existed, if they didn't have his formidable bones to explain.

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